# WALSALL

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### **Super Saddlers**

Dean Smith's men put in hard graft to beat Latics Sport – See Pages 43 & 44



## **Council** is having to make cuts of £100m

CASH-STRAPPED Walsall Council must make £100 million of savings over the next five years - £20m more than expected.

more than expected.

Services and jobs are expected to be hit hard as part of cost-cutting measures at the local authority.

The council has already made more than 450 redundancies over the past four years and shaved £32m from its spending in the last two. It comes after changes to the Government grant given to the local authority.

Mike Bird, council leader, said: "We're working harder than ever to make Walsall a better place for everyone.

Tough

### Tough

"We'll have less money and fewer people so we'll be able to do less but we'll make the best of what we've got.
"It's important that we're level with everyone. The public sector has a desperately tough future and this is affecting us in Walsall too." Budgets and the council

Budgets and the council tax level are now being drawn up for next year.

drawn up for next year.
Finance boss councillor
Chris Towe said they would
do all they could to help businesses and create jobs.
"There's a range of things
we're focussing on because
they are important to
Walsall people," he said.
"We're also helping them
lead healthier lives and older
people live independently."

### Ellie's gold in Montreal

WALSALL swimming star Ellie Simmonds won gold at the World Swimming Cham-

the World Swimming Championships in Canada on Monday.

The four-time Paralympic gold medallist stormed to victory in the S6 400m freestyle in Montreal. The 18-year-old took victory in five minutes 24.02 seconds, beating the other competitors by 20 seconds. Ellie, from Aldridge, said: "I'm looking forward to my other events."

Ellie received an OBE

Ellie received an OBE earlier this year for her serv-ices to Paralympic sport.

# COURT MOVE TO ALT BOY RACERS

### POLICE are seeking a High Court injunction in a bid to crack down on boy racers street racing in Aldridge.

Complaints have been received about a large number of vehicles with noisy sound systems and exhausts gathering in Brickyard Road, Leighswood Road and near Aldridge

Community Centre.
Police said they were gathering statements about the issues to seek a High Court

injunction.
If granted, police will have greater powers and it could see racers fined or jailed for

see racers fined or jailed for up to two years.

Aldridge Central and South Councillor John Murray said the problems had been spiralling for months.

### Noise

He said a community group had now been set up to look at ways of increasing surveillance and security around Aldridge Commu-

around Aldridge Community Centre.

He said: "I am aware of a problem of young people gathering in the community centre car park with their modified cars.

"They have caused a nuisance because of the noise and bright headlights shining into the residential area.

area.
"We set up a task and finish group which includes representatives from the police, council, residents and people from the community centre.

"We have explored various options the council could

### Report by Lisa O'Brien

take and the possibility of doing various things, such as introducing CCTV, to try and solve the problems.

"I understand the cost-ings are being worked out and we are going to meat again in September.

"I welcome the fact that the police want to gat a High

"T welcome the fact that the police want to get a High Court injunction. I imagine that would do the trick." Police said they had also stepped up patrols to crack down on car cruising in the area.

Sergeant Joanne Winters, from Aldridge central and south neighbourhood policing team, said: "We are getting calls from concerned residents.

"We are gathering statements about this issue to work towards a potential

ments about this issue to work towards a potential High Court injunction." It comes after police in Staffordshire also gained permission from the High Court in December banning boy racers in Cannock along The Orbital, Eastern Way, Watling Street, Lichfield Road, Walsall Road and Avon Road.

### **Angler saves wheelchair man**

A MAN in an electric wheelchair was rescued by a fisherman after falling into a lake at Willenhall Memorial Park.
The man, in his 60s, was pulled to safety by the quick-thinking angler. Both men were taken to hospital as a pre-

cautionary measure.

Fire crew commander Jonny Pearson, from Willenhall station, said: "The guy that jumped in most probably saved his life. The man in the wheelchair was paralysed from the waist down."

# Monster fun at town show



Monster truck driver Michael Murty meets Brownhills boy Alfie Bird, aged 3, during a display at Walsall Arboretum

MONSTER trucks, vintage vehicles and magic shows kept thousands of people entertained at the fifth Walsall Town Show at the weekend.
Visitors descended on Walsall Arboretum to enjoy the displays and activities on offer.

James Bird, aged 27, of Ogley Road, Brownhills, was at the event on Satur-

day with his wife Lisa, 25, and sons Alfie, three, and Archie, who is threemonths-old.

The father-of-two said: "We enjoyed it. It's a great show and we go every time it's on.

"My son loved the monster trucks and motor

and motorbike stunts." Funfairs, said dous turnout.'

by Walsall Council's leisure chief Anthony Harris in 2009 to celebrate the 150th birthday of the 'King of Showmen' Pat Collins.

Event organiser Michael Harris, from the Brownhills-based Pat Collins Funfairs, said: "There was a tremen-

## Police in hunt for iron bar attacker

POLICE are appealing for information after a pensioner was beaten over the head with an iron bar outside a Willenhall pub. The 72-year-old victim's jaw was shattered during the terrifying attack outside the Three Tuns in Walsall Roadjust before 5am on Saturday.

The pensioner received head and facial injuries. He underwent surgery to repair his jaw.

his jaw.

Investigating detectives are appealing for help tracing a man described as black and aged in his 20s who they believe may be able to help with their inquiries.

### Devastated

A 21-year-old woman suf-fered a cut to her head when struck by the same thug during the attack outside the pub.

the pub.
Ranjit Singh, owner of the
Three Tuns, knew the
elderly victim. He said: "The
attacker had come in with
someone else earlier and he
was told to leave because he
had been arguing. The man
who was hit is a family
friend. He had been trying to

friend. He had been trying to intervene in the argument. I feel devastated.
"It happened at the side of the pub. He must have been waiting there."
Anyone with any information is asked to call Force CID on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Three taken to hospital

THREE people were taken to hospital following a collision involving a car and a vanin Pleck during the early hours of Tuesday. The car struck a lamppost during the crash at 12.35am at the junction of Station Street and Bridgeman Street.

A man driving the car suffered a broken leg and a woman passenger had minor injuries. Another male passenger was treated for a possible pelvic injury. All three, believed to be in their early 20s, were maken to Manor

20s, were taken to Manor Hospital. The driver of the van was uninjured.

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# Fans in court after violence at match

have appeared in court accused of affray after violence broke out at a Wolves match against Leeds on February 10 and 10 a ruary 9. They all appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

One 16-year-old from Fallings Park, who cannot be named for legal reasons, denied the charge was due to appear at the city's youth court

They were: Ricky Bates, 26, of no fixed address; Benjamin Richardson, 25, of Pebble Close, Stourbridge; Ryan Richardson, 29, of Ambleside Close, Bradley; Nicholas Ward, 38, of Foxwood Road, Tamworth; Gregory Elliot, 48, of Slatch

Eight of the defendants were given conditional bail and ordered not to attend any Wolves games.

Bail

House Road, Smethwick; Daniel Gadsden, 19, of Granville Street, Telford. Gilroy Shaw, 45, of Selwyn Road, Bilston, and Nicholas Smith, 20, of Alde Road, Wedneshur, worn 29, of Alder Road, Wednesbury, were not in court but were also given conditional bail.

> Andrew Ward, 48, of Farm Road, Quarry Bank, Richard Ward, 23, of Farm Road, Quarry Bank; Ryan Blake, 19, of Denmore Gardens,

Wolverhampton; Lee Dougliss, 18, of Brockeridge Close, Willenhall; and Craig Green, 25, of Richborough Drive, Dudley ,were all granted unconditional bail.

Three 17-year-olds from Wolver-hampton, Willenhall and Brierley Hill were also given unconditional bail. They will all appear again at Wolverhampton Crown Court again on October 9 and 10.

## **Refusal** is likely for gipsy site in garden

A BID to build a gipsy caravan site near Blxowich was set to be thrown out by council chiefs after sparking

council chiefs after sparking outrage from residents. Resident Bill Watton wants to put three caravans – containing two gipsy households – in the garden at the back of his house in

at the back of his house in Long Lane, Newtown. South Staffordshire Dis-trict Council officers have recommended that the pro-posals are rejected when they go before a meeting of the authority's planning committee this week.

It comes after more than 70 angry residents flocked to a public meeting over the scheme and vowed to battle the plans. A petition with 132 names has been submitted to planners along with 63 letters of objection.

Villagers object to the caravans being situated on green belt land and say they are concerned about traffic. It comes after more than

are concerned about traffic

are concerned about traffic.
Essington Parish Council
chairman David Clifft has
also called for the councillors to visit the site to see it
for themselves.

As part of his explication

As part of his application Mr Watton has claimed he needs the new homes as his mother is ill and his son is to

### Barber, 23, in court on sex charges

A BARBER accused of sexu-ally assaulting women on buses across the Black Country has appeared at

court.
Zeeshan Ali, aged 23, of Lichfield Road, Walsall, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court on August 7.
He is accused of sexually assaulting five women over the course of four months this year. Three of the attacks are said to have happened on buses in the area. He is also accused of sexually assaulting a woman on

ally assaulting a woman on her way home in Wolver-hampton Road, Walsall, and another woman at Walsall bus station.

bus station.

Ali appeared at the Stafford Street magistrates court only to identify himself and have the charges put to him, to which he indicated no plea.

He has now been remanded in custody and will be at Wolverhampton Crown Court on November 1.

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# Suspended sentence or prolific fuel thief

across the Black Country without paying during a seven-month stealing spree has

been given a suspended prison sentence. Tadas Prismantas used two cars – both with the same stolen number plate – when he stole fuel from garages throughout the region. The 34-year-old, of West Bromwich,

was charged with six offences but asked for another 15 to be considered.

another 15 to be considered.
District Judge Graham
Wilkinson said he had
shown 'pure greed' and
accused him of helping push
up the price of petrol. He was
given an 18-week sentence
suspended for 18 months
and banned from driving for
18 months.
Wolverhampton Magis
trates Court heard Prismantas stole from filling stations
across Sandwell and in
Walsall, Wolverhampton,
Dudley and Stafford
between January and July

Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Stafford between January and July last year. The total value of the fuel he stole was more than £1,000 and ranged from £49 to £77 a time.

Prismantas, whose partner is expecting his child, was caught on CCTV but originally claimed he had been bought the petrol legitimately, said Mrs Jayne Yeomans, prosecuting.

Yeomans, prosecuting.

Among the stations he targeted were the Millfields Garage in Millfields Road, Bilston, where he took £49.83 of fuel, Tesco at Birmingham New Road, where he pilfered £77.70 of

tuel and the Total Service Station in Bilston Road, Wednesbury, making off with petrol worth £50.85.

Other thefts included £45.72 worth from the Co-Op in Dudley Port, £46.36 worth from the BP in Hagley Road West, Quinton, £32.38 fuel from Osprey Filling Station in Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, £59.81 worth from BP in Stafford Road, Fordhouses and fuel worth £57.98 and £50.85 from the Apple Green Service Station in Cannock Road, Wolverhampton. He also stole fuel in Walsall and Stafford.

in Walsall and Stafford. The judge told him: "These types of offences are prevalent up and down the country and have a real impact on the price of petrol because the company will cover its losses." Prismantas pleaded guilty to six counts of making off without paying and asked for 15 more to be taken into consideration He was ordered to pay compensation for the petrol and will be under curfewon Fridays and under curfew on Fridays and Saturdays for three months.

### Terror trial next year

A UKRAINIAN man accused of the terror-related murder of an 82-year-old grandfather as he walked home from a mosque in Birmingham will face trial next year.

Pavlo Lapshyn, a postgraduate student from Dnipropetrovsk, is charged with killing Mohammed Saleem in April. The 25-year-old has also been charged with three fiveness related to appear to the proper particular to the pr

in April. The 20-year-old has also been charged with three further offences related to explosions near mosques in Tipton, Walsall and Wolverhampton. He appeared at the Old Bailey via videolink. A provisional trial date was set for January 14. He was remanded in custody. The student was in the UK on a sponsored work placement at a software firm in Small Heath, Birmingham.

# ul Occi

The wonder of cue

Elvis, alias Graham Payne, Captain of the Victoria Pool Team in Walsall with the new pool trophy to replace the one stolen from the bar at Birchills Liberal Club

MEMBERS of a Walsall pool team have clubbed together to buy one of their members a new trophy after his was stolen off the club bar.

The Victoria pool team from The Victoria Pub in Lower Rushall Street, were pre-sented with trophies for coming runner-up in division two of the Walsall Pool Federation League in their first season.

Trophies were presented to all seven members of the team at Birchills Liberal Club, but one belonging to 42-year-old Corby Whistler, of Chuckery, was later stolen from the bar. A £50 reward was put up for the trophy but nobody came forward.

Since then its members have clubbed together to buy a new one with Mr Whistler's name on it.



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### NEWS

# Fans in rescue bid for old club

ton Town Football Club are holding a meeting next month to see if the club can be saved or revived under a

month to see if the club can be saved or revived under a new identity.

The club, thought to be the second oldest in the country, folded andwas pulled from the regional league in a shock move last week after almost 140 years in existence.

Fans have launched a rescue bid and say they are aiming to relaunch the club, which played at the City Ground in Waverley Road, within the next 12 months.

They said the club's history was 'too illustrious to let it disappear'.

Darlaston Town FC was formed in 1874 and was a founder member of the Midlands league in 1962.

Competing

### Competing

The team has played at the Waverley Road ground since 1899 and the only time a Darlaston team has not been competing in a regional league was during war

Fears over the future of the club emerged last year when it needed to raise £15,000 to run for another season and pay bills.

Chief executive of the West Midlands Regional League Neil Juggins confirmed the club was no longer part of the league.

"They have folded as far as we are concerned," he said. "They are no longer members of our competition." Fears over the future of

tion."

A meeting for fans to discuss whether to reform the club – or set up a new one – is being held at Darlaston All Active Centre, in Willenhall Road, on September 4 from 7.30pm.

Neil Chambers, a chairman of the club in the 1990s and historian, said: "I have received numerous calls

and historian, said: "I have received numerous calls from long time supporters, well wishers and former players asking me if I could do anything to re-form the club or form a new club bearing the town's name.

"I have received calls from as far afield as Manchester, from people who left the town more 40 years ago but still have great affection for the town. They have offered help and support and have even said they will travel to attend future meetings. attend future meetings. There is a real enthusiasm from people to form a club to represent the town and if ssible keep the name

# Former finance worker's £21k benefits fraud

lent claims over six years has avoided jail. Ronald Cudd claimed the money stating that he was unemployed when in fact he had started a number of businesses.

Mr Patrick Sullivan, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "The defendant was over paid £21,202.87, of this around £2,000 was made up of council tax benefits. We submit that this was not fraudulent from the outset but was carried out over a substantial period."

Cudd, of Bramble Close, Clayhanger, had

A FORMER financial worker from Walsall failed to notify a change of circumstances who admitted taking £21,000 with fraudulent claims over six years has avoided jail. failed to notify a change of circumstances affecting his entitlement to benefits between December 2005 and January 2011.

He also made three dishonest statements to obtain benefits from Walsall Council in 2005, 2006 and 2010.

### **Proceeds**

A proceeds of crime hearing has been scheduled for later this year which could see Cudd have to pay back some – or all – of the money he owes the Department for Working Pensions and Walsall Council.

Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, defending Rudd,

said: "He's 56 years of age and for 36 years he has been in employment. Towards the end of his employment he was a financial worker for Northern Rock.

worker for Northern Rock.
"What he tried to do was start up various businesses and start up partnerships. The report suggests that Mr Cudd doesn't realise the seriousness of what he has done but he tells me he certainly does. This contiction means he certainly won't be able to work in that line of profession again."
Mr Cadwaladr said Cudd faces the prospect of having to move in with elderly parents.

Cudd was given a six-month sentence sus-pended for 18 months. He was also given a 12-month supervision

order and ordered to carry out 100 hours of

unpaid work.
Judge Amiad Nawaz told Cudd: "You are

Judge Amjad Nawaz told Cudd: "You are someone of previous good character but this money was public money and should go to people who deserve to benefit from it.
"You worked in the financial industry and you would have known the resources the authorities place on discovering benefit fraud. It's admitted that your claim wasn't fraudulent from the outer."

# in brief

### Town-wide pub ban punishment

TROUBLEMAKERS in pubs in Brownhills could face a 12-month ban from other bars in the town,

under a new scheme.
Two customers have already been served with notices banning them from all premises involved in the Brownhills Pub-

in the Brownhills Pub-watch scheme.

It was introduced fol-lowing talks between police and pub bosses and it is hoped it will deter anti-social behaviour.

Police said consulta-tions had been held with staff from pubs in the town, including The Swan, The Anchor Inn, Hussey Arms, White Horse, The Crown, Prince of Wales, Chase Inn and Smithy's Forge.

Troublemakers who cause problems in one pub

cause problems in one pub face a blanket ban. Each case will be considered on an individual basis.

### Go-ahead given for homes at church

AN EMPTY vandal-hit church in Darlaston will be demolished and replaced with homes. Plans to replace the former St Andrew's Church with five homes were given the go-ahead after historic locally-made stained glass windows

after historic locally-made stained glass windows were removed and put in storage, with aim to pre-serve them for public display in the town. Three of the windows, depicting the Good Shep-herd, St Andrew and St George, were installed in 1919 as a memorial to 1914-18 war dead.

### MP is opposing school site plan

WALSALL South MF Valerie Vaz and residents are objecting to plans for new homes on a former school site.

school site.

An outline planning application has been put together for the old Three Crowns School in Skip Lane. It was closed in 2006 and Ms Vaz has sent a written objection to Walsall Council raising concerns over the loss of green belt land.

### **Blood donors are** sought by NHS

THE NHS is appealing for volunteers to attend a blood donor session in Aldridge at the commu-nity centre on Middle-more Lane, on Friday, August 23, between either 1.30pm and 3.30pm or 430pm to 730pm 1.30pm and 3.30pm or4.30pm to 7.30pm. Call 0300 123 23 23 to

# rwo more convicted in teenager death case

involved in violence on the night a 16-year-old Walsall boy was fatally stabbed in Smethwick, while another has been found not guilty

Tahj Mills, aged 18, of Waterside Street, West Bromwich, and Jordan Campbell, 18, of Portland Road, Edgbaston, were both last week convicted of

both last week convicted of violent disorder at Wolver-hampton Crown Court.

They were both involved in the violence surrounding the death of 16-year-old schoolboy Ben Morutare on July 28 last year, who was killed by a single stab wound to the lew gutside the Smethto the leg outside the Smeth-wick Home Guard and Old Comrades Club in Smeth-

wick.
Tobias Blake, 20, of
Kelsall Croft, Ladywood,
was found guilty of violent
disorder earlier last week.

### **Party**

Mills and Campbell were both found guilty by a majority verdict of 10 to two by the jury. There was shouting from the public gallery as Campbell's conviction was announced.

Both have now been remanded in custody until a sentence hearing, which is expected to be on September 20.

Meanwhil,e a third defendant, Kwamae Phillips, 18, from Edgbaston, was found not guilty of violent disorder after a trial of more than two

after a trial of more than two months.

The remaining defendant, Aaron Parkins, 19, whose address cannot be reported for legal reasons, is still awaiting a verdict. He denies violent disorder.

Ben, of Holden Crescent, Couloned died from the stab

Coalpool, died from the stab wound to his leg, with wit-



nesses in the trial claiming up to 80 men had chased him.

He was attending an 18th birthday party at the club and was found injured on grass nearby. He later died at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

During the trial it has been claimed by a number of witnesses that Ben was killed after trying to defend one of his friends from a group of youths.

Two weeks are Andre Ly.

Two weeks ago Andy Ly had a plea of manslaughter accepted, despite having been on trial for murder for

been on trial for murder for around five weeks. He also pleaded guilty to one count of violent disorder. His charge of murder was ordered to lie on file. A seventh defendant, Omar Robinson, pleaded guilty to one count of violent disorder at the same time as Ly.

Ly.

He was also on trial for murder but was told by the judge that he had no case to answer.

# **Shocking images of attack on Ben**



Killer Ly lunges towards his victim as the gang looks on

Ly is restrained by friends after the fatal attack on Ben THE devastated family of Walsall

THE devastated family of Walsail teenager Ben Morutare have agreed to release shocking footage of his attack to deter people from getting into violent crime.

CCTV footage shows the final moments of the tragic schoolboy who was knifed while trying to protect a friend during a night of violence at a hithday norty in Smethwick in July birthday party in Smethwick in July

Andy Ly, from Ladywood, Birming-ham, has admitted the manslaughter of the teenager who was killed by a single stab wound to the leg outside the Smethwick Home Guard and Old Comrades Club.

A further five men have also been convicted of or admitted to crimes which include violent disorder and possession of a weapon in connection with the death.

Detective Inspector Gary Plant from the force's Major Investigation Review

Team, said Ben's family had made the brave step to allow footage from the night to be released. The footage had been shown to the jury during the twomonth trial, showing a huge gang of yobs advancing on the diminutive figure of 5ft 2ins Ben before Ly attacks.

### Tribute

DI Plant said: "The weight of evi-DI Plant said: The Weight of evi-dence against these men, from wit-nesses and CCTV, was significant. Ben's family have agreed to some of those shocking scenes to be shared in a bid to deter others from becoming involved in similar unnecessary vio-lence."

Brower in Semi-lence."
Ben's mother, Grace Morutare, paid tribute to her son saying the fact the family will never see Ben again was the 'most painful and unbearable thought'.
The investigation team trawled through hours of CCTV footage from

The investigation team trawled through hours of CCTV footage from the club and surrounding area to

provide evidence for the trial. Images of the violence included footage spe-cially enhanced by the FBI which captured the moment Ly attacked Ben in

28-07-201

tured the moment Ly attacked Ben in Chatwin Street.

Ben, of Holden Crescent, Coalpool, was among some 300 youngsters who had packed into the club on Oldbury Road after the joint birthday party was advertised on Facebook.

A fight broke out between Ben's

Friends and a group of youths. One of Ben's friends was chased the length of Fenton Street and into St Paul's Road, where he was assaulted and robbed. While some of the group were chasing the youngster, others turned on Ben, chasing the Zimbabwe-born schoolboy across a car park into Chatwin Street. Witnesses claimed up to 80 men chased him. One witness said he saw Ben on the ground being rupeded and kicked.

the ground being punched and kicked. The footage can be seen at the The footage can be seen at the www.expressandstar.com website.

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### BEST **OF PETER** RHODES

IT AIN'T my dog. My dog got stolen last week. I sold it

IT AIN'T my dog. My dog got stolen last week. I sold it years ago. The law on dogs that kill may be toughened up to include life sentences but killer-dog owners are not blessed with much in the way of brains and will already be rehearsing their excuses. They come from the same thicko segment of the underclass which chucks bricks off motorway bridges or steals signalling wire from railways and is surprised when a crash ensues. Worst of all, the new dog laws will be reactive. First we must wait until the slavering heast that everyone in the street knows is a potential killer.

beast that everyone in the street knows is a potential killer actually kills someone. Better by far to pick up Chummy and his attack dog before any damage is done, identify it as a menace and have it destroyed. The dog, that is, not the

AFTER playing the foul-mouthed Malcolm Tucker in The Thick of It, Peter Capaldi is the new star of the BBC's longest-running sci-fi drama. Forthcoming episodes include Dr Who and the \*\*\*\*ing Daleks, Dr Who Gives the Cybermen a right \*\*\*\*ting Pasting and Dr Who Kicks Seven Sorts of \*\*\*\* out of those Stone Appelle

WE NOW have almost 800 members of the House of Lords – more old bottoms than red benches to accommodate them. Packing pensioners into a chamber so small is surely a form of elder abuse. The time has come for peers

to be appointed not for life but for five or 10 years. After that

00000000

Community could buy popular pub CAMPAIGNERS rallying to save a pub in Walsall from being turned into shops will hold talks over getting the community to join forces in a bid to buy it and keep it open. Hundreds of objections were lodged against plans to convert The Magic Lantern in Beechdale into shopfronts, prompting a decision to

shopfronts, prompting a decision to be deferred by Walsall Council plan-

Walsall CAMRA's pub preservation officer, and Councillor Tina Jukes, are now calling a meeting with pub staff to see if it is viable to form a community group which can raise funds to buy the pub under a community asset transfer programme.

The suggestion was put forward by Walsall Council leader Mike Bird

a decision over the ruther of the paramateur was deferred.

Mr Watkins said under the scheme at least 21 people would have to nominate the pub as an asset of community value to the council. If accepted, the interested parties could then have the opportunity to form a trust or community group to

form a trust or community group to
buy the pub within six months.

Mr Watkins said he was hoping to

Councillor Jukes, who re
Birchills-Leamore, said the
the 'hub' of the community.

hold a meeting with Councillor Jukes and the manager of the pub in the near future to discuss the options available to save the pub from closure. He added: "We need better protection for pubs. There's very little protection for pubs unless they are listed." Councillor Jukes, who represents Birchills-Leamore, said the pub was the 'huk' of the compunity.

## **Bedroom** tax fight taken to Chequers

A WALSALL MP has said there will continue to be opposition to the controver-

sial 'bedroom tax'.

The changes which have come in will see tenants have their housing benefit cut if they have one or more spare bedrooms.

There has been wide There has been wide-spread opposition to the system which has seen some people fall into arrears – and now Labour MPs have taken the campaign against the tax to the Prime Minister's country house residence.

### Disabled

Walsall North Mp Mr Winnick said: "It is part of the legislation that even where the tenants are dis-abled, unless a carer stay overnight, the tax will apply where it is considered there is a spray-badroom.

where it is considered there is a spare bedroom.
"With other Labour MPs, I went to Chequers on April 5, since we wanted to know how many spare bedrooms were not being used regularly there.
"Not surprisingly, we were not allowed inside, but it has not been challenged that there are regularly many empty bedrooms at Chequers, and the building is maintained annually by public funds."

### **School gets** more rooms

A PRIMARY school in Walsall will be expanded with six extra classrooms after plans were given the go-ahead. More than 120 letters and PRIMARY school in

More than 120 letters and a petition of 323 signatures were submitted in support of plans for a two-storey extension at Park Hall Junior Academy.

Plans were approved by councillors after the existing buildings were branded overcrowded with inadequately-sized classrooms.

Ten letters of objection were received over the plans

were received over the plans from nearby residents con-cerned about partial loss of a play area at the Park Hall Road school.

### £2m staff bill

MORE than £2 million was spent on recruiting agency staff for schools and educa-tion centres in Walsall. The money was used on temporary workers during the 2012-13 school year. The money is used to cover sickness and maternity

# Football hooligans admit roles in brawl

teenagers - have admitted taking part in a massive town centre brawl before a Walsall away match against Shrewsbury Town.

The violence happened before the League One match on October 14 last year. The fans have been warned by a judge

October 14 last year. The tans have been warned by ap that they could face lengthy bans from football matches for their actions.

The fighting in Shrewsbury started in Mardol before spilling into Smith-field Road in front of horrifield Road in front of horrifield Student absence.

writen mum and Dad want to be regarded not as proper grown-ups but as their kids' best pals. We've all seen them, and what a ridiculous sight they are. "We're more like sisters, really," says Mum, buying her 12-year-old daughter a T-shirt with the slogan "Porn Star" and pouring a couple of pina coladas down her innocent neck. field Sunday shoppers.

Three police officers were injured as they tried to restore order, including Pc Lee Saunders, who suffered a broken log. THIS week's furore about the number of charity bosses earning £100,000-plus prompts Sir Stephen Bubb, head of the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations to waii. "Many MPs on the Right hate effective charities who campaign." In truth, people don't hate charities who campaign." In truth, people don't hate charities. It's just that we're wising up to the fact that some of them are more like big businesses – with one crucial difference. Real companies are set up to make things, maintain things or sell things. They aim to complete every contract and stamp it "Job done." Most big charities have no intention of completing the task they set out to do. They grow and

restore order, including Fc
Lee Saunders, who suffered
a broken leg.
Last week, when they
appeared at Shrewsbury
Crown Court, all 16 defendants were banned from
attending any Premier
League or Football League
matches until they are sentenced. They must also stay
away from Shrewsbury's
Greenhous Meadow
stadium as a condition of
being granted bail.
Fifteen of the defendants
admitted charges of violent
disorder. They were Shrewsbury residents Russell
Wilson, aged 47, Lewis Gardiner, 18, Alexander Pugh,
18, Calum Marsh, 23,
Stephen Hawkesford, 36,
David Jones, 36, Callum
Gwilliams, 19, Luke Dodd,
24, 19-year-old Aaron

Pinches, Daniel Jones, 25, Shaun Peach, 24, and Simon Llewellyn, 34, as well as Paul Walker, 42, and Andrew Copeland, 38, both from Church Stretton, and Ross Gall, 29, from Weston-super-

Mare.
Another man, Talal
Alsadek, 29, from Shrewsbury, denied a charge of
violent disorder but admitted encouraging other
people to engage in violence.
He will not face trial for the
violent disorder charge.
Judge Robin Onions said
the men could all face longer
bans from football matches

the men could all face longer bans from football matches as part of their sentences, and granted them all conditional bail. They will all be sentenced in the week of September 16.

Two other men have denied charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. They will face trial on a date to be set. In total, 29 people were charged over the incident, and those from the West Midlands will appear at Shrewsbury Crown Court this week.

## Double diamond celebration



Diamond day – Stan and Betty Sheldon, left, and Des and Betty Burton from Walsall, celebrate their 60th wedding anniversaries together

TWO couples who are members of the same bowling team have double reason to cele-brate with both pairs having their diamond wedding anniversaries on the same day. Pride at award for wood

Friends Stan and Betty Sheldon and Des and Betty Burton both marked 60 years of marriage this month – having not only tied the knot on the same day but at the same

### Cruise

And in another coincidence, the two Palfrey couples have both booked to cele-brate by going on a cruise. While the Shel-dons will head to the Caribbean, the Burtons will sail around the Greek shores.

The two couples met over 40 years ago

with Stan and Des becoming drinking buddies. Then, around 15 years ago, both couples took up bowls and are members of Palfrey Senior Citizens' Club.

Paltrey Senior Citizens' Club.

It was only when both couples were celebrating their golden wedding anniversaries that they realised they shared the special date. Foundry worker Stan and shop assistant Betty got married at the parish church in Wednesbury while just up the road driver Des and buckle strap maker Betty had their service at St Paul's church in Walsall.

Mr. Shelden, seed 80 seid: "It is on

Mr Sheldon, aged 80, said: "It is an amazing coincidence. We had known each other for years and then only within the last 10 years did we realise we got married at the same time on the same day."

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes** every Monday to Friday in **your Express & Star** 

stamp it "Job done." Most big charities have no intention of completing the task they set out to do. They grow and morph, changing their aims and expanding their brief. If you believe the animal charities, Britons are crueller to animals today than they have ever been, and are getting worse. If you believe the child-cruelty charities, Britain is populated largely by baby-batterers. And if you believe the Africa charities, the face of that continent today is exactly what it was 50 years ago, a stick-thin baby holding out a bowl. It seems the more we give, the worse things get.

NICK Hewer of The Apprentice memorably dismissed Ed Miliband as "tall, arrogant, weak handshake." Now, the Canadian comedian Stewart Francis says Miliband reminds him of "a security guard who's just heard a noise in the warehouse." Once such images are planted in the public mind they are desperately hard to erase.

AS THE food boffins tinker with stem cells to create the world's first artificial burger, whatever happened to all that

# THE retention of the Green Flag award at a Walsall nature reserve has been hailed as "fantastic" news for the borough. It is the fourth year running that Merrions Wood, known for its carpet of bluebells, has achieved the award. Tomorrow's World stuff about a machine to turn grass into milk? We have the grass. We have the plastic bottles. It seems quite bizarre that we still rely on cows to do the bit for its carpet of bluebells, has achieved the award. The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country. Councillor Rose Martin, chairwoman of the Friends of Merrions Wood, said: "This is fantastic news for a beautiful amenity that thousands of people get a lot of enjoyment from. To retain the Green Flag for another year is something that everyone associated with Merrions Wood should be really proud of."

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### Stray dog kennel bill is proving expensive

COUNCILS are spending tens of thousands of pounds on kennelling fees each year for hundreds of stray dogs collected – and Walsall is one of the worst affected bor-

of the worst affected boroughs.
Authorities are becoming concerned over the spiralling costs as officers are spending a considerable amount of time chasing and collecting the animals.
Walsall Council collected the highest number of strays between April and July with 189 dogs taken in.
The authority, which

The authority, which spends almost £50,000 per year on kennelling fees, said it attempts to trace owners

but dogs that are held for seven days become the legal property of the council. The council then has to find space in rehoming centres, which are already full to bursting point.

### Heartbreaking

Vicky Pratley Walsall Council's animal control officer, said: "I come across many, many cases of animals in distress. It's heartbreak-ing"

in distress. It's heartbreaking."

In Wolverhampton, there were 164 stray dogs collected during the same period and the authority spent just over £50,000 on day-time kennelling fees in the last financial year.

There were 140 strays seized between April and June in Dudley, where the council invests around £10,000 each year on a kennels contract.

In Sandwell, 84 stray dogs were collected from the streets between April and June.

But, fewer strays were collected in Walsall this year compared to the 269 seized from April to July 2012.

### **County health** role for Manor

WALSALL'S Manor Hospital still has a major role to play in the future of Cannock Hospital, adminis-

trators say.

Alan Bloom, an adminis-trator tasked with transtrator tasked with trans-forming the troubled Mid Staffordshire NHS Founda-tion Trust, has called for dis-cussions between Walsall chief executive Richard Kirby and New Cross boss David Loughton to continue. Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust is keen to run services

Trust is keen to run services at Cannock and has plans for a £6m extension at its maternity unit to cope with extra births from Staffordshire.

# More than £400k to be spent on route's single deckers

MORE than £400,000 is being invested in new buses to improve services along a key

route through Walsall.

route through Walsall. The cash is being ploughed into boosting the number nine route between Walsall, Darlaston and Lodge Farm Arriva Midlands is investing more than \$420,000 on three new buses as part of an agreement with the transport authority Centro. The move will see Centro carry on subsidising journeys on the route before 9.30am at a cost of £17,000 a year.

The new single deckers include low floors to make it easier for passengers. A regular 20-minute service is being provided.

Alex Perry, regional managing director for Arriva Midlands, said: "We are pleased to Arriva Midlands, said: "We are pleased to announce the investment on route nine for travellers within the Black Country. It will not only improve the existing service for our customers but we hope that, through our partnership with Centro, we will also be able to raise awareness of the options available in the area so that they will be better informed

uransportation needs."

Councillor Richard Worrall, Centro's lead member for Walsall, added: "I am delighted to see Arriva investing in improved services with environmentally-friendly and easy-access buses.

with environmentally-friendly and easy-access buses.

"It's also pleasing to see Centro working with its private sector partner to make the most of the number nine service for the benefit of the communities it serves and links."

earlier this year including the 19 Arriva bus between Bloxwich and New Cross, Plans for a £14 million interchange in Bradford Place

a £14 million interchange in Bradford Place are being drawn up.

An £80,000 revamp of facilities has also been completed at the main St Paul's bus station. There had been controversial plans for a 20p charge for toilets at the station. Turnstiles were installed at the toilets but not activated after protests from individuals and Walsall Pensioners' Convention.

# Hammer thug sent to prison for seven years

head with a hammer and terrified the victim's wife before stealing the couple's new car was starting a seven-year jail sentence.

starting a seven-year jail sentence.

Philip Humpage was high on drugs when he launched the horrifying Easter Monday attack, Wolver-hampton Crown Court heard last week.

The 40-year-old knocked at the front door of Philip Martin, aged 65, claiming that a criminal had just jumped over the fence into the back garden in Harpur Road, Rushall, prosecutor Mr Robert Cowley said.

### Struck

Mr Martin went to check and was struck with the hammer after emerging from his garage, the court was told.

was told.
Mr Cowley said: "The victim was pushed by the defendant who produced a bricklayer's hammer and struck the left side of the head of Mr Martin."
The attacker then demanded the keys to the family's £11,000 Volkswagen Polo and Mr Martin was repeatedly hit on the head.

repeatedly hit on the head, face and legs after revealing he did not have the keys, the court heard.

court heard.

Mr Cowley continued:
"Mrs Martin heard the commotion and went into the garage to find her husband lying bleeding on the floor.
"Humpage held the mammer above her, repeatedly demanding the keys to

the car and she decided it was best to co-operate." She got the keys which were grabbed by Humpage who drove off at around 10.30am in the Polo, which was later found abandoned

was later found abandoned nearby.

The defendant was formally identified by Mrs Martin after being arrested four days later.

It transpired that he was on bail for the theft of a delivery van after the driver left it with the keys in the ignition while taking a package to a house in Hardern Road, Walsall, where the defendant lived.

Mr Martin needed 14 stiches and has developed eyesight problems.

eyesight problems.

Both he and his wife are

Both he and his wife are now 'edgy and jumpy' in their own home.

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, said: "It was a dreadful crime.
"The defendant remembers nothing of it but accords."

bers nothing of it but accepts full responsibility and does

# All aboard for play bus memories



Community Playbus Co-ordinator Jackie Hewitt with a selection of toys which will be on display at Walsall Museum

VINTAGE children's games have gone on display as part of an exhibition to mark 30 years of Walsall's community playbus

A selection of the best entertainment and photographs from over the decades are being displayed at Walsall Museum.

The playbus toured around the borough from 1983 offering the chance for young people to enjoy a range of activities from games, sewing to reading

In total more than 30 toys will be available to view at the Lichfield Street venue. An interactive story

timeline is also in place. The exhibi-

timeline is also in place. The exhibition launched last week and will be on view until the end of August. Around 300,000 children across Walsall benefited from the play bus which offered a mixture of arts and crafts. The first one was in 1983 and it was replaced by a newer version in 1999

### Truck

The scheme was updated when the Move truck, which incorporates an information area, chill out and debating section, computer suite, Wii fit, and music mixing decks, was introduced in 2010.

That was a year after Reach Up play equipment was brought into use for young people.

Jackie Hewitt has been the community play bus co-ordinator for 30 years

The 60-year-old said: "I still walk down the street and people say to me they remember going on the playbus. It was coming into their street and was their bus. A lot of children grew up with it."

Jennifer Thomson, community history curator at Walsall Museum, said there were a lot of toys which would bring back memories for a lot of people

# in brief

### Many post boxes are disappearing

MORE than 80 post boxes have been lost across the Black Country and surrounding areas during the last five years. Pleck and Bentley in Walsall were the worst affected, with more than a fifth of their

the worst affected, with more than a fifth of their post boxes being closed. The WS postal district now has a total of 492 post boxes, down from 519 five years ago. A total of 17 boxes have been closed in Walsall borough with a further three each lost in Cannock, Rugeley and Lichfield, and one in the WS6 area covering Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay. Councillor Dennis Anson, who represents Pleck ward, said: "I would imagine that this is down to costs but the price of stamps has not been coming down."
Val Bodden of Royal Mail said: "The number of postboxes in the UK – in both rural and urban areas – has remained stable for the past decade."

Thor's Cave an

### Thor's Cave an option on ramble

Option on ramble
WALSALL Ramblers will
be heading to the Manifold Valley, near Ashbourne for a 10-mile
circular walk on Sunday.
This is a moderately
strenuous walk in north
Staffordshire through the

Staffordshire through the villages of Wetton, Warslow, Butterton and Grindon with an optional visit to Thor's Cave. Non-members are welcome and should contact the walk leader on 01543 321770.

### Shrubs subject at next meeting

WALSALL Fuchsia and Flower Society will hold its monthly meeting on Monday at Walsall Labour Club, in Church Road, Pelsall, at 7.30pm. The guest speaker is Justin Harrison, who will be talking about autumn and winter shrubs

### Two new homes at former car park

HOMES are to be built on a disused car park in Brownhills after receiving the go-ahead from council planners. Two new three-bedroom properties are to be built in Poplar Road.

### Check health at event next month

HEALTH checks and advice will be available during a healthy living event in Bloxwich at the Stan Ball Centre in Abbotts Street on September 95 from 11 on the 2000. ber 25 from 11am to 2pm.



**Couple face fraud charges** 

# STEAMED UP

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### IEWS FEATURE

# IN MY VIEW

WHAT is up with the people of the West Midlands? The first halfthe West Midlands? The first half-decent summer in years, and suddenly there is an outbreak of rampant nudism. Last week it was an application for a nude reading group in Dudley library, this week it is a naturist bar at an hotel in Erdington.

Regarding the latter proposal, Councillor Robert Alden fears it would attract teenagers and troublemakers, and lead to 'a rise in inappropriate behaviour and dis-

inappropriate behaviour and displays of flesh'

plays of flesh'. Really? Do you get teenage nudists? I always assumed, based on reports in all the good tabloids, you understand, that all naturists were at least 60 years old, had bulging beer guts, and were preferably German. While the scenario outlined by Councillor Alden seems a tad farfetched, it would at least make for a few laudhs.

a few laughs.
Who would stop all these Who would stop all these teenage nudist troublemakers from gatecrashing? Maybe they would need to hire some naked bouncers, but where would they hang their walkie talkies? Still, there would be no need to frisk anyone on the door.

Hotel owner Tim Higgs says the councillor had completely misunderstood the proposals, saying he only wants to serve drinks on the lawn.

"It is a spa, a respectful, quality establishment for naturists, not a

establishment for naturists, not a pub. You can't just come in off the street." he says, adding that councillors were free to visit the premises whenever they wished. Sounds like a site visit to me. Still, this seems positively normal compared to the application for a nude reading group at Dudley library. Why would anyone want to spend their weekends in a public library reading paperbacks in the buff? In what should surely have been flagged up in a surely have been flagged up in a section marked 'too much detail',

section marked 'too much detail', the group said they would be bringing their own towels to keep the furniture clean.

NICE to see that the Spanish Government has shown calm and restraint in the debate about Gibraltar's sovereignty.

After Spain brought its border with Gibraltar to a standstill with a

After Spain brought its border with Gibraltar to a standstill with a range of checks and controls not seen since the days of Franco, the British Government has responded with a threat of legal

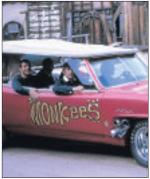
action.

The Royal Navy is now sending warships to the Mediterranean, while Spain is threatening to gang up with Argentina by supporting its stance over the Falklands. If that is not enough, the Spanish town of Candeleda has now named one of its streets.

now named one of its streets after, ahem, John Major. This one

after, ahem, John Major. This one is going to get very ugly indeed.

MEANWHILE, over at the Edinburgh fringe festival, playwright Kevin Toolis unveils his latest work, a political satire entitled The Confessions of Gordon Brown. And no, it doesn't star Robin Askwith.







# Old golden wonder Waggy's glory days

MARTIN SWAIN takes an affectionate look back at the life and times of Wolves favourite Dave Wagstaffe, who died last week at 70

THERE are some footballers who just have it, who capture that part of us which will forever be childlike in our appreciation, who give the beautiful game the wonder that captures our hearts.

Dave Wagstaffe was one of those

Dave Wagstaffe was one of those men. He was not Wolves' most successful player. Waggy won a promotion, a League Cup, and a runners-up medal from the now defunct UEFA Cup.

Nor could we say he was the club's greatest, not with a cast-list of such celebrated figures who piled up championships and international caps. But Waggy was that little bit special; a footballer who for a generation of fans – and not necessarily just of gold and black persuasion – brought the promise of something exciting, something different and magical to their Saturday afternoons.

He was right for the times, of course.

magical to their Saturday afternoons. He was right for the times, of course. The Christmas of 1964 brought him to Molineux and I Feel Fine was No.1 to Molineux aftiting signature launch to a Wolves career perfectly tailored to the changing mood of a nation caught up in the excitement of that decade.

He was a maverick, a scamp, a bit of old-fashioned working class kid of the

He was a maverick, a scamp, a bit of old-fashioned working class kid of the street realising that the old days of deference were coming to an end. Even Bil McGarry, a manager he disliked and who evoked the same sternness that Stan Cullis brought to Molineux's corridors, turned a blind eye to Waggy's infamous fag in the toilets just before kick-off and usually at half time.

But perhaps the spirit and magic of



Wolves legend Waggy in action against Arsenal's Brendon Batson in 1973

Dave Wagstaffe is best captured in the recollections from a pal who spent his formative years in wide-eyed wonder at the winger who could send the North Bank the wrong way with one drop of his shoulder.

his shoulder
Recalling his debut against Aston
Villa, he recalled: 'Of course, this was in
the days before Twitter or Facebook had
even been thought of never mind
invented and we turned up at Molineux
on Boxing Day for the Villa game when
they announced over the tannoy: 'And
at No.11 today, a change from the programme for Wolves, Dave Wagstaffe.'
"I can still hear the murmur that

went round the ground. You can't imagine it now but that was the first we heard about it. I think they had only signed him that morning.

"I remember it so well because it would be the day one great Wolves career ended – Peter Broadbent played his last game – and another began. Because Waggy stepped out and held us spellbound that day and for the next 10 years. The pitch was frosty and hard as you can imagine but what balance – and his left foot was just magical. Mystical. you can imagine but what balance – and his left foot was just magical. Mystical. Such a left foot. 'Wagstaffe – Dougan – Richards – goal!' We seemed to hear that all the time over the next 10 years.

His finest performance, many reck-oned, came in that away leg of the 1972 UEFA Cup final when that faultless left UEFA Cup final when that faultless left foot gave Wolves hope of overturning the decisive defeat in the home leg against Spurs with a quite stunning goal. Bill Nicholson, the double-winning leg-endary Tottenham manager, admitted afterwards the better team had lost and that Waggy had frightened the life out of him

him. And there were the escapades and stories to go with his vibrant football, of course, vividly captured by the man himself in his autobiography 'Waggy's

Remember that summer tour to the Remember that summer tour to use States where the team played as 'Los Angeles Wolves' in a mini-season and word came back that the left winger was quitting the game to become – of all things – road manager to The Monkees?

Illuminate Illuminate

It wasn't that far from truth either as
the American pop band's lead singer,
Dave Jones, was a schoolboy friend from
Waggy's Manchester upbringing and the
Wolves footballer was half tempted with
a rock star lifestyle. Of course he was.
But thankfully, he stayed to illuminate
the first half of the Seventies before
drifting into a retirement that, shorn of
the millionaire's nile a player of his the millionaire's pile a player of his calibre would earn today, took him back

to his own folk.

He ran a hotel in Blackpool, returned to this city to run pubs in Bushbury and Castlecroft and, naturally, Waggy's Bar

at Molineux.
His final appearance at Molineux was to receive his induction to the club's Hall of Fame. As a member of the committee charged with the task of nominations, I won't be alone in thanking providence we got to him in the nick of time.
It was clear from that evening's reception just how cherished he is and always will be in the hearts and minds of Wolves fans.

ans.

To view the Express & Star's last video with Waggy at the Hall of Fame Dinner in January click on www.expressandstar.com

# THROUGH THE YEARS

A TEENAGER from Tettenhall went to mow the meadow – and ended up in the canal. Richard Rochelle was cutting the grass on a Black Country industrial estate when his motor mower expected days a begin into the careered down a bank into the

CANDIDATES in the Bilston CANDIDATES in the Bilston East by-election were hard at work helping people at opposite ends of the age scale. Conserva-tive candidate Peter Hazeldine sorted out a road surface wrangle for elderly residents, while Liberal-SDP Alliance representa-tive Ann Nightingale opened a playgroup for youngsters.

AN Oldbury father and son ended up in beds next to each other at hospital on the same dayy. Thomas O'Connor was taken to Sandwell District taken to Sandwell District General Hospital after complaining of stomach pains, where he was joined by son, Stephen, who was having his appendix removed.

### 1993...

AN iron horse almost sparked a AN iron horse almost sparked a stampede scare after a train pas-senger mistook a sculpture for the real thing. Police launched a search after an elderly woman reported seeing a charging horse near the line at Coseley.

STARS from the Midlands music scene turned out in force to pay tribute to a Kingswinford to pay induce to a Kingswinford musician who co-founded pop group The Wonder Stuff. Members of Pop Will Eat Itself and Ned's Atomic Dustbin were amongst 60 mourners who paid tribute to Rob Jones at St Mary's Church in Kingswinford.

A NEWLYWED from Wolver-hampton was facing six months away from her American husband because US officials refused to allow her to enter the country. Leesa Alexander was told she would have to wait for her immigration papers to be processed.

### 2003...

A FOOTBALL-MAD Tipton A FOOTBALL-MAD Tipton teenager snapped up the world record for having his photograph taken with the most players. Aston Villa fan Thomas Gill made the Guinness Book of Records after having his picture taken with 510 players, including David Beckham and Alan Shearer.

WOLVES fans besieged the Molineux hotline for tickets for the game against Manchester United at Old Trafford – only to be left on hold for hours after a switchboard breakdown.

SPECIAL transport was laid on SPECIAL transport was laid on in Wolverhampton to help A-level students attend classes in city schools and colleges. The scheme was aimed at increasing learning opportunities for the city's students.



### **LETTERS**

# **Hospital parking clogs streets**

MYSELF and other residents living on the surrounding streets by Manor Hospital are still having to complain to Walsall Council, local councillors and o Walsall South Area Partnership about Manor Hospital staff and visitors still clogging up the surrounding streets with their vehicles. Nothing has been done by them to resolve this problem in over 15 years.

Streets surrounding the hospital—Manor Road, Scarborough Road, Forrester Street, Ida Road and Flaxhall Street – have been left with litter for weeks, road drains have been blocked causing flooding on some streets, all because staff and visitors to the hospital clog up the streets seven days a week.

One resident on Scarborough Road told me he has been late to get to work because of hospital staff blocking his drive and parents have said they have taken their children to school late for As I live by the hospital and seen these problems on the surrounding streets and talked to many residents over many years, I know they are all

over many years, I know they are all fed up with continuing parking problems caused by staff and visitors to the hospital over 15 years. When is the council going to do something about this problem?.

The council had to a special street clean on August 8 on Scarborough Road and Forrester Street. Residents had to come out before 7am to stop staff who start work early parking, so the street could get cleaned.

The extra car park spaces at the hospital have not resolved this problem, which residents predicted.

I have talked to a few hospital staff

which residents predicted.

I have talked to a few hospital staff and visitors to Manor Hospital and asked why they don't use the car park spaces provided at the hospital. They reply 'it is too expensive' and 'We can park here on this street for free'.

**LETTERS** to the Editor

**POST** 

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,

We even have staff at the hospital

Food banks and soup kitchens

it on grandiose schemes to no benefit of their poor and stary-

oples for whom it was intended in the first place

E-MAIL

walsallchronicle@

who have parking stickers on their car windscreens but still park on Scarborough Road and Ida Road.

There are simple solutions to this parking problem, residents can be given parking permits and double yellow lines should be put outside the Shelley Campus side of Scarborough Road. As vehicles are parked on both side on this street, buses have had difficultly getting up this road.

If these suggestion are put in place, staff and visitors to the hospital will have no choice but to use the car parks at the hospital.

Residents are angry our local councillors and council officers have done nothing about this problem, which they have been told about and shown pictures of by myself.

Not one thing has been put in place to the this problem.

Not one thing has been put in place to stop this problem.

ARJUN CHAND resident near Manor Hospital

I HAVE to express concern about the drivers who drive through Lane Head, Willen-hall, without due care on the four roads that approach Lane Head Bridge

My aim is to get a new 20mph speed limit put in place on all roads approaching Lane Head bridge, with the possibility of further ng Lane Head bridge, with the possibility of further raffic calming measures to

CHAD PITT

# **Concern at**

Lane Head Bridge.

I have witnessed drivers speeding over the bridge and around the corners. I have waited at crossings on the bridge with my children and on so many occasions drivers have sped past us after the lights have changed to red.

My aim is to get a new

I HAVE read in the press that Councillor Chris Towe has personally thanked a number of supermarkets for donating quantities of fresh food to local food banks.

I am sorry councillor but I would have a little more respect for you if I could read in the press that you were lambasting you political masters in Westminster for allowing circumstances to develop nationally that establishes a need for food banks and soup kitchens.

Considering that the United Kingdom is one of the wealthier nations in the world, it is shameful that this situation appears to have become quite a common occurrence. But what I find particularly offensive is that we are giving many millions of pounds to countries by way of 'aid' with little or no check on how certain despots seem to be wasting it on grandiose schemes to no benefit of their poor and staryurge you to keep your speed down to a maximum of 20mph, even if someone behind is revving up behind you, hold firm. Thank you

JOHN BIRD

## **Education** is the answer

TODAY (Thursday) students will receive their exam results. Good luck to you all.

Michael Gove's proposed reforms have met with a reforms have met with a mixed response from parents, teachers and exam-iners. They also threaten the validity of the existing exam system. A nasty little theory lies behind Gove's changes. The National Curriculum The National Curriculum changes set out to separate 'quality' people from those deemed less worthy. This based purely on exam results is wrong. Education is lifelong and for all.

Young people have become the victims of excessive, inconsistent and austere policies from Government. Let's hope more young people see education as an

people see education as an answer not a pointless

CLUB DOUG JAMES





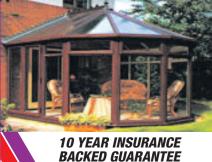
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Would you like to be involved in supporting parents become more involved in children's play and development?

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# **Popular family worker Chris given fond farewell**



Chris Burchell, centre with bouquet, is given an emotional send off from colleagues at the Stroud Avenue Family Centre

SHE has given 42 years of service to families across Walsall and colleagues of Chris Burchell gathered to say a fond farewell at her retirement party. retirement party.

retirement party.

There were tears as staff at Stroud Avenue Family Centre, Willenhall, bid farewell to the long-serving and popular family worker.

Bosses laid on a party with food and soft drinks to thank Mrs Burchell, who worked with vulnerable children and their families, for her commitment and dedication over the years.

Balloons and banners were on

### **Emotions**

"I'm feeling a mixture of emotions. I'm happy to be finishing work, but at the same time I'm sad to be leaving

evervone. "I've worked with so many lovely

people over the years.
"I'll miss working with the families and children. I've met some really nice people along the way."

She added: "Different people have

She added: "Different people have been popping in all day and my desk is covered in flowers and other gifts, which is really touching. "My manager did a lovely speech—funny but, again, quite emotional. "There have been a few tears today." The mother-of-one began her career at Central Bay Nursery, in Lichfield Street, Walsall, before it moved to become Teddesley Street Day Nursery, which, in turn, relocated and eventuwhich, in turn, relocated and eventu ally became Stroud Avenue Family Centre.

During her retirement she plans to buy a caravan and travel with her husband Graham.

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**NEWS** 

# Village is blooming



Judges join councillor Mohammad Nazir and Maria Cooke of Aldridge Village Partnership at the assessment

A SEA of of colour greeted Britain in Bloom judges as they visited Aldridge which has made it through to the national finals of the urban community category.

Last year the village won gold in the Heart of England In

Bloom contest.

The judges were last week given a guided tour of Aldridge
by Diane Mansell, from Walsall Council's district centre
management team, Maria Cooke, chairwoman of Aldridge
Village Business Partnership, and Janet Fry, co-ordinator of
Aldridge in Bloom.

The tour finished at The Parade in Aldridge town centre where they were met by the Mayor of Walsall, councillor Mohammad Nazir.

### **Fantastic**

He said: "Aldridge looked absolutely fantastic and it was wonderful to meet some of the volunteers who gave up their spare time to help transform the village into a sea of colour. "I'm sure the judges were impressed by what they saw and fingers crossed the village scoops the award when the judges announce their decision."

The town's four district centres Willenhall, Darlaston, Bloxwich and Brownhills have also recently been visited by the Heart of England In Bloom judges.

the Heart of England In Bloom judges.

They are entered in the urban community category which looks at horticultural achievement, environmental awareness and community involvement.

awareness and community involvement.

Last year they received a mix of gold, silver gilt and silver awards with Aldridge selected to take part in the national finals. Deputy leader councillor Adrian Andrew said: "This year we are hoping to build on what we achieved."

# **Bankruptcy** man had a £40,000 flat

for bankruptcy but failed to declare he jointly owned a flat in northern Cyprus worth tens of thousands of pounds, has been handed a community order.
Robert Billingham was declared bankrupt at Walsall

County Court in November by Lisa O'Brien

2011. Mr Justin Jarmola, prose-cuting at Walsall Magis-trates Court on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, said the 62-year-old had accrued debts of £26,800.

Billingham, of Arboretum Road, Walsall, had worked as a publican and previously applied to Greene King for a £22,000 trade loan.

applied to Greene King for a E22,000 trade loan.

The court heard that while making the application, he provided details of a property in Cyprus which he jointly owned and valued at £80,000.

But no mention of this property was made in a statement when filing for bankruptcy and Billingham also failed to mention any properties he owned abroad when later interviewed.

The court was told the official receiver dealing with the bankruptcy claim was contacted by Greene King in January last year and was told about the property in Cyprus he had earlier declared to the company.

On February 27 last year, Billingham voluntarily phoned the official receiver

to confess to owning the property. The property was sold shortly afterwards and around half the funds, amounting to almost £20,000, were given to the official receiver.

Billingham had admitted failing to disclose the property in Cyprus to the official receiver.

receiver.

In mitigation, Mrs Sheila
Hicklin said Billingham had
no previous convictions. She
said the property in Cyprus
had been bought for around
£60,000 and had eventually
been sold for around
£40,000.

Billingham.

B40,000.

Billingham told magistrates at a previous hearing that he had jointly acquired the property in Cyprus a decade ago and had spent money redecorating it.

Mrs Hicklin added: "He is in receipt of pension credit. He tells me he will endeavour to discharge any costs. He does deserve credit for entering a guilty plea and

He does deserve credit for entering a guilty plea and very much regrets his actions." Billingham was handed a six-month community order with £750 costs and a £60 victim surcharge.

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# **Hair raising fundraiser** by cancer survivor Tonya



CANCER survivor from Walsall has raised more than

Walsall has raised more man £1,500 after having her hair shaved off for charity.

Tonya Blakeman, aged 30, from Walsall, was given the all-clear in September last year after being diagnosed with cervical cancer some years ago. Now she has had her long hair, which reached almost the length of her back, shaved off for the When You Wish Upon A Star charity which grants wishes for sick children.

Tonya, who lives in Attlee Road, Bentley, went for the chop during a fundraising event at Darlaston All Active in Willenhall Road. So far, more than £1,500 has been raised.

The mother who has three children, Lia-Marie, 13, Aaron, seven, and five-year-old McKenzie said: "I had cervical ancer a few years back and had the all-lear in September.

"I said 12 months ago if I had the allear it was something I was going to go 

to send some terminally ill children

to sent some ...

"When I got diagnosed a few years ago I was quite lucky because I was two weeks away from having radiation or chemotherapy and I would have ended up losing my hair if I had gone through it so I just thought it would be a way to mark that.

"It still feels strange having no hair," joked Tonya, who is married to Mark

The event also featured entertainent, a tombola and a raffle.

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Mark Hubbard gets set for his 160-mile walk from New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, to Exeter

A FUNDRAISER from Willenhall is taking on a gruelling 167-mile walk over 10 days to support a charity that has helped his disabled baby cousin.

Mark Hubbard, aged 20, will set off from outside New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton on August 14 and hopes to make it to his family's home in Exeter in time for eightmonth-old Liam's christening on August 25. His aunt and uncle Janna and Matt Skittrall have spent the months since severely brain-damaged Liam's birth in hospital.

Daunting

severely brain-damaged Liam's birth in hospital.

Daunting

He was recently allowed home and Mr Hubbard finally got to meet him last month. The experience inspired him to take on this challenge to aid the charity SNUG, which stands for Supporting Neonatal Users and Graduates.

Mr Hubbard, of Trentham Avenue, Willenhall, admits it

is a daunting task but he built up his fitness during eight months as a private in the Parachute Regiment based in Catterick. He is now planning to train to be a primary school teacher. But first he is focusing on raising as much money as possible for charity.

He said: "Seeing Liam was very difficult. It's hard to

explain the emotional pain everyone has gone throu

# Epic walk for baby 'First class' pledge on shared fire contro

A SHARED fire control centre will deliver a 'first class' service to the West Midlands and Staffordshire, chiefs have said.

West Midlands and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services are to merge by Rob Golledge their command centres, reverting to a single base

in Birmingham.

The existing 101 posts across the two centres will be reduced by 25 roles to 76. be reduced by 25 roies to 76. Staffing numbers will then be reviewed after 12 months. The move is set to take place early next year and was given £3.6 million of Government funding.

In a joint statement

of Government funding.

In a joint statement,
Councillor Len Bloomer,
chairman of Stoke-on-Trent
and Staffordshire Fire and
Rescue Authority, and
Councillor John Edwards.
Chairman of West Midlands
Fire and Rescue Authority,
said: "A shared fire control
service between Stoke-onTrent and Staffordshire and
West Midlands Fire and

Trent and Statiordshire and West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authorities is preparing to go live in 2014. "The shared service is being introduced to max-imise efficiency and increase resilience.

"The priority is to ensure that communities in both areas continue to receive a first class service and that our firefighters are safe when they are doing this vital job.

"There are currently 101 posts in total across the two control centres. It is proposed that this will be reduced to 76 roles when the new shared fire control

reduced to 76 roles when the new shared fire control centre is operational.

"Staffing levels will be reviewed 12 months later. Some of the 25 posts that will be lost are currently vacant and members of staff may be given the option of voluntary redundancy or redeployment.

"We are committed to pro-

redeployment.
"We are committed to providing an efficient and effective service to the people of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire and the West Midlands. To continue to achieve that aim, changes have to be made."

Registered charity number 1089464 and Scotland SC041666



# **Family for Life**

Sunday, 8th September 2013

Arrivals 11.30 am Walk begins at 12 noon

# Walsall Arboretum Park Broadway North

WS1 20R

Participants will be walking 5km in a circular route around the park. We're asking participants to pay a £10 register fee that will include your T-Shirt and Medal. We are hoping you will raise as much money through sponships. You are welcome to bring family and friends along to support you.



### You can register online at

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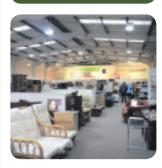
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### **Empty former pub to** be Co-operative store

A FORMER pub is to be transformed into a convenience store after plans to breathe new life into the empty Aldridge site were backed by Walsall Council.

The Co-operative has been given the go-ahead to transform the Cedar Tree building in Walsall Wood Road to move from its existing location nearby.

A planning application to create a new shop front and doors as part of the proposals was agreed by Walsall Council under delegated powers. The Co-operative said it had outgrown its existing branch, in Walsall Wood Road, and planned to move into the nearby derelict Cedar Tree.

# **Police keep** eye on hard shoulders of motorways

AROUND 250 drivers a day are illegally using the hard shoulder in the West Midlands, it has emerged - as a new crackdown was launched

which could see motorists fined.

The clampdown was launched by the Highways Agency and Central Motorway Police Group, with drivers warned they could be bound and seven, a specific proced to see the could be bound and seven. forced to pay fines or given points on their licence for

points on their licence for flouting the rules.

A pilot scheme is being launched next month to reduce the amount of motorists who use the hard shoulder at the wrong times

### Congestion.

Congestion.

The stretch of the M6 between junctions eight at West Bromwich and 10 A for Essington is already part of a 'managed motorways' scheme, which sees the hard shoulder opened up as a fourth lane at busy times in a bid to cut congestion.

Work to expand it into Birmingham is now under way. Overhead signs are used to display when this is in force.

However, police said that on three of the busiest motorway links across the West Midlands – at the M42 sent on education courses.

by Craig Hughes

south between junctions six and seven, and M6 northbound and southbound between junctions nine and 10 - figures show an average of 250 vehicles per day illegally using the hard shoulder.

Most of this was just before the hard shoulder opened to traffic for peak periods or just after it had been closed.

As part of a pilot scheme,

bern closed.

As part of a pilot scheme, police will be monitoring drivers in the region.

Any drivers misusing the hard shoulder will initially receive a joint letter from the force and the Highways Agency, along with an educational leaflet clearly explaining the correct use of the hard shoulder.

Repeat offenders could find themselves facing a fine and points on their licence.

But some motorists who abuse hard shoulders on the region's motorways could be

### Rubik's warehouse



The huge new warehouse is continuing to take shape near junction nine of the M6 at Wednesbury WITH its striking red, grey and white square panels, these are the latest images of how a Rubik's Cube-style warehouse visible to thousands of drivers a day from the M6 is

house visible to thousands of drivers a day from the M6 is taking shape.

Storagebase is building the £5 million 112,000 sq ft self-storage building near to Opus Blueprint at junction nine of the M6 by Wednesbury. The checked panels are being fitted to the seven-storey building, which is due to be completed early next year.

The warehouse will include more than 1,000 individually lockable secure self-storage rooms.

The development will create six new jobs, and will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The building was granted permission by Sandwell Council's planning committee in September, despite a petition against the plans submitted by residents who said they think it will be an eyesore and could cause problems as

think it will be an eyesore and could cause problems as people cross busy Wood Green Road.

## Tall order for Emily



Cooper, aged seven, with one of the towering sunflowers she has grown from seed

WHEN seven-year-old Emily Cooper, of Willenhall, decided to plant some sunflower seeds, she had no idea that they would flourish to almost seven feet tall.

The youngster's father Tony Cooper sent in this picture after his daughter's keen interest in gardening produced some impressive results.

The youngster planted the seeds in plastic cups on the kitchen window, not expecting much to happen. But as the seeds began to sprout, she moved them into the garden where she nursed them attentively until they reached their towering height. Though not all of the seedlings survived to grow to their full extent, the Cooper's garden on Glamis Road is now home to two huge sunflowers.

The biggest sunflower ever recorded in Britain was grown by Richard Hope from Wigan last year and measured 26 feet tall.

# A three-year match ban for pitch invading Saddlers fai

A WALSALL FC football hooligan who taunted fans during a pitch invasion has been banned

fans during a pitch invasion has been banned from attending matches for three years.

Saddlers supporter Daniel Arrowsmith, from Willenhall, ran onto the field and made 'come on' gestures towards rival fans during a game between Walsall and Bury on April 20.

Walsall Magistrates Court was shown CCTV footage of the 21-year-old, who did not attend the hearing, stretching out his arms on the Banks's Stadium field.

Arrowsmith had previously admitted a charge of

### **Ticket**

Prosecutor Charlotte Ridout told the court he had

Ridout told the court he had already been spoken to by police officers at the match. Sarbjit Lalli, defending, said Arrowsmith, of Douglas Davies Close, had never been convicted of a similar incident in his 16 years as a Saddlers season ticket holder.

holder. Mr Lalli added: "The defendant has said that others went onto the pitch,

Arrowsmith had previously admitted a charge of using threatening words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress but was contesting the need for a football banning order at last week's hearing.

Arrowsmith was given a three-year football banning order in his absence, stopping him from attending any regulated match during that period.

period. He was also ordered to pay a £65 fine, a £20 victim sur-charge and £85 costs.









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(T&C's below)

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NICKY lonely single mum with GSOH, honest and very loving seeking trustworthy, cuddly, tactile male who can make all my dreams come true. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406523

SARA 32 very attractive single mum, OHAC, professional, looking for similar outgoing single dad 35-55yrs for companionship, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406511 🖁

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955

Box No: 406135

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft fins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015

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CHRISTINA 38 very pretty N/S male companionship to meals/drinks to more maybe

NAT easygoing pretty, honest 24yrs, enjoys cosy nights in, romantic walks, holidaying, keeping fit, WLTM fun, loving, preparatic male looks/age

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BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box

SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449 🖺

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PAULINE 36 intelligent easygoing female with GSOH looking for nice guy who wants to get know and connect with me entry meals incut

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SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373 🚳

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JANET looking for handsome prince to spoil me in return for lots of good fun and well deserved uncomplicated

deserved uncomplicated attention. Discretion assured

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NEW to dating and a little nervous, Susan very attractive 30yr old curvy single mum, looking for fun times with similar outgoing male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405809 8

SARAH 24. brunette, brown

eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's

in Kidderminster area for LTR

Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR.

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CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe seeking a male to talk, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955** Box No: 368429

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819 🗒

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135 ∰

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169 €

62YR old female, widowed 62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106 €

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MALE 47, honest, caring, loving, OHAC, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406891 ₿

KEVIN 40, stocky, 6ft 2ins, dark hair, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 35-50 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406773 🖁

MARK 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737

COLIN 5ft 8ins, dark hair, brown eyes, likes pubs, walks, dvds, holidays, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406677 @

MATT nice build, likes cycling, clubs, looking for fit, sexy female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406727 🗒

PROFESSIONAL local businessman, 40 tall, blue eyes, likes sports, music, seeks professional slim lady for romantic meals, evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406717 🗎

ARE you a black princess? ARE you a black princess?
48yr old sporty white male, 5ft
11ins, likes holidays, cinema,
meals out, would like to take
you out. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 406551

MALE seeking female, 40-55. discretion assured, status unimportant for daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 SHARP dressed man, mature, fun, seeks smart, size 10 lady, any age for friendship and relationship. Hereford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405323 🗒

58YR old male, likes nights in/out, looking for N/S female, 40-60 for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975 ₿

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build likes sports, gardening, music seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

38YR old farm worker, medium build, seeks female of similar age for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406331 🖞

ATTRACTIVE ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easy going, likes sport, socialising, seeks female for fun and live life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406317

CHRIS 45, genuine, honest, caring, N/S, likes cinema, theatre, socialising, seeks genuine, N/S female, 39-45, single mum welcome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406295 🖰

46YR old stocky male, no ties shaved head, likes walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeking female for relationship, are you the one? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTM lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259 ₿

BROADMINDED 67yr old black male, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks lady, 62-69 for friendship and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406257 ₿

MAURICE 50's, seeking N/S female for nights out, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box

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www.localgaydate.co.uk per person

BI male, divorced, young 50, fit, own business, generous, seeks bi male, any nationality, 18-40 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406905 ∯

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892 6

### **FRIENDS**

STRAIGHT lady, young 60, smart appearance, friendly, outgoing, seeking similar female friends single/married friendship/evenings

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surrounding areas. Tel No:
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### **NEWS**

# October set Jade, 21, opens salon as target in **Manor's bid** to be trust

A BID for Walsall Manor Hospital to become a foundation trust is finally due to be submitted at the end of October - almost a year later than expected.

than expected.

The move to give the hospital greater independence and control over its own affairs was initially expected to be put forward last continue to prepare or continue to pr

autumn.

It was held up after Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust failed to hit its four-hour A&E waiting time targets, and there were contargets, and there were concerns over finances after bosses had to change the amount they expected to make in surplus.

The decision to delay the bid was reached after a meeting between the hospital trust board and the Strategic Health Authority. It was then due this summer but again was held up awaiting news on

up awaiting news on Walsall's bid to take on work from Stafford and Cannock hospitals impacting on the business plan and responsi-The trust is now looking

to make its formal bid in autumn. In a report to the

trust, chief executive Richard Kirby said: "We

Richard Kirby said: "We continue to prepare our application for NHS Foundation Trust and are aiming to submit it to the NHS Trust Development Authority at the end of October."

Dawn Clift, who is director of governance and trust secretary, added: "Subject to the NTDA assurance phase, we hope to be in a position to secure NTDA Board approval to move to the Monitor phase of assessment in the spring of 2014."

It comes after plans were outlined recently to plough

outlined recently to plough up to £65 million into trans-forming hospitals in Wolver-hampton, Walsall and Cannock Chase.

Cannock Chase.
It would be part of a shake-up in the Midlands that will strip services from Stafford. Walsall Manor is also looking to invest £6m in improved maternity services.



A FORMER Walsall College student is opening her own beauty salon after receiving support from the Prince's

Trust.

Jade Hampson-Goodwin launched her business in

was granted a low interest loan of £3,000. This has gone towards rent and equipment.

The last fortnight has seen the unit transformed into a salon. The official launch of the Farmbridge Road salon was on Monday. The launch of Jade's Beauty will be the first business for the beautician.

Jade said: "I really enjoyed my course and I have always wanted to work for myself. If I can I want to get an apprentice."

### Three men walk five davs

THREE men from Walsall walked for five days from Rhyl to

THREE men from Walsall walked for five days from Rhyl to Pelsall and raised £750 for charity.

Joseph Ufton, aged 75, from Bloxwich, Dennis Smith, 58, and Keiran Maxwell, 21, both from Blakenall, raised the cash for St Giles Walsall Hospice. The trio undertook the challenge as part of the Railway Pub's ongoing fundraising efforts for the hospice and complete their journey when they arrived at the Victoria Road venue. Mr Maxwell said: "The walk went really well, although we had a few blisters."



### Autumn Break

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### **NEWS**

# **Doris pens** her second volume at age of 95

SHE is only be five years away from her 100th birthday but age is no barrier to a Willenhall great-grandmother who has just penned her second book based on her memories.

Doris Milne took just two weeks to finish The Ladder of Life which is

finish The Ladder of Life which is based around her parents growing up. Her first foray into the literary world saw her publish a book about her own youth some 20 years ago which was called My Black Country Childhood. Mrs Milne said it was a comment from her father remembered from many years ago that led to her putting pen to paper.

### Remembered

She said: "I was sitting in my lounge one day looking at a picture of my father. I remembered him saying to me once 'you won't forget me once I've gone will you? "At that point I decided to write the book."

Mrs Milne's mother was called Arris Milne's mother was called Pamela Jenkins and she was born in August 1890. Her father was George Gibbons, born December 1892. They were both from Willenhall and met as they lived near each other. They even attended the same school in the twen

town.
Widow Mrs Milne added: "I just sat down in my living room and started writing. I had so many memories and it only took me two weeks. My dad always used to say he was born below the first rung on a ladder. The book goes on to describe how he made it from the very



Doris Milne, aged 95, who has written her second book The Ladder of Life, which is a sequel to her first book of memoirs A Black Country Childhood

bottom and ended up being quite a

Mrs Milne's father set up his own lock making firm in John Street, Willenhall. She said: "We had a seaside home in Rhyl, Wales, and we were only the second family on our street in Temple Road, Willenhall to get a car.

My father and the doctor who lived in the street were the only ones

Mrs Milne now has two children Kate, 71 and Robert, 64, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Anyone who wants a copy of the £3 book should contact daughter Kate Haywood on 01902 630509

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# Show business is a real option for Studio students

weekend we are reminded of the big business that surrounds the music, entertainment and creative industries.

With the NEC group based in the Midlands we should consider live events and exhibitions as an area of real

**Grammar School** 

Located in the new Goldmine centre, the Studio Sixth and Paul Reid. who have performed regularly with BevForm is the first of its kind in the region and brings erley Knight, Take That, Westlife, Will Young and Kelly together business enterprise with music, the arts and broadcast digital media. The Sixth Form is offering a tai
broadcast digital media. The Sixth Form is offering a tai
Also performing at the school and sharing her experiopportunity for young people. After all, more than one lored approach to education of 1:1 coaching and small million visitors spend money each year at the LG arena class sizes for emerging artists and creative entrepre-

Walsall Studio School and Sixth Form opens in September 2013 with a brand new offer for students in Walsall and the surrounding areas.

At the recent royal opening of the Studio School young performers shared the stage with experienced professionals and mentors including Carl McGregor, Mark Walker

ence with students was Connie Talbot, the Britain's Got Talent finalist in 2006 when she was aged just six. Connie, now aged 12, has become a sensation in the US

and the Far East as well as having millions of hits on

The creative industries when connected with business enterprise and digital technologies offer real local jobs

and new global opportunities for young people.

Students will develop their abilities in the school's professional 400-seater auditorium and TV studio where events will be broadcast live online and to audiences smartphones all over the world.

### Qualifications

Post-16 students study half the week in education, gaining industry recognised qualifications, and half the week in work placement where they put their skills to the test in real-life working scenarios with employers in

test in real-life working industry.

There are a limited number of sixth form places available for students to study BTEC qualifications and A levels in areas including Business, IT Digital, Music & Music Technology, Performing Arts, Broadcast Media and Live Events.

Students are also able to re-sit GCSE English and

Maths, if they need to, while progressing onto advanced level courses in other areas. Most 16-19 year old students sign up for a two-year programme, however, fast-track one year courses are also

Whether you are waiting for your GCSE results, or thinking of exploring a different approach to education than your existing sixth form or college, you should contact Walsall Studio School and Sixth Form to find out



Student Tom Davies performing at the school's opening



www.walsallstudioschool.co.uk





Walsall Studio School, The Goldmine Centre, 14a Lower Hall Lane, Walsall, West Midlands WS1 1RL

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# **Call to give failed homes** site over to car parking

## Blooming good show



Black Country Fuchsia Society publicity Officer Trevor Crowshaw from Willenhall with some of the exhibits on show

Willenhall with some of
GARDENERS had a blooming good
time at a Black Country flower
society's 30th annual show.
More than 40 members of the
Black Country Fuchsia Society displayed around 170 of their finest
plants at the event in Willenhall.
Entrants won accolades categories, covering the best of everything from triphyllas to bonsai
fuchsias. Society chairman Pat
Rodgers scooped the overall top
prize for Best in Show during the
event, which was staged at Pool
Hayes Arts and Community School.
Ms Rodgers, from Cheslyn Hay,
who had a fuchsia named after her
when she turned 70, also produced

winners. President Dennis Skitt, the society's longest-serving member, also won a raft of titles, as did Gordon Reynolds, from Aldridge.

Aldridge.

Trevor Crowshaw, who has been a member for over a decade, said: "The judges were impressed by the standard of entries. There were some things there that they had never seen before, particularly the bonsai fuchsias.

Mr Crowshaw, 71, of Dingle Lane, Willenhall, appealed for new members to join the society, which meets on the last Tuesday of the month at Corpus Christi Social Centre, Griffiths Drive, Ashmore Park. Call 01902 608736.

PLANS to build homes on two garage sites in a village near Wil-lenhall have been dropped prompting calls for the units to be made available for parking instead.

Bosses at South Staffordshire Housing Association wanted to build the new proper-ties on garage sites in Essington but have now shelved the scheme after a review of the

now shelved the scheme after a review of the proposals.

The chairman of Essington Parish Council, Councillor David Clifft, says the garages in Hill Street and Church Crescent should now be made available for rent to help ease local parking problems.

He said many residents struggle to find somewhere to leave their vehicle and added: "The association has confirmed to me that no garage site in Essington will be used to create a housing development and now I want them to be returned to rent to reduce on-street parking.

### Residents

"The development would have put more pressure on our already crumbling infrastructure. The roads throughout Essington and South Staffordshire are very congested. Cars are often double parked opposite driveways and the roads are narrow.

"Two out of three people own vehicles and many struggle to get off their own driveways and drive down their own street.

"A lot of residents have spoken to me in support of renting garages to use them for off-road parking."

The plans were dropped after the housing association said the sites didn't meet its criteria for new homes and the organisation is now looking at developing garages at other sites in South Staffordshire.

Spokesman Richard Evans said: "A

Spokesman Richard Evans said: "A review of garages has been carried out into their conditions and suitability to be let out." He said there were nine people on a waiting list for garages.

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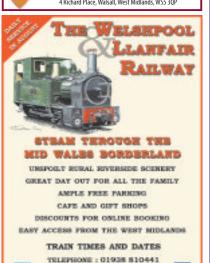
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# work until next month

A BUSY route in Bloxwich will be partially shut fro the rest of the month as multi-million pound work to upgrade a railway signalling system continues

Motorists face diversions now Bloxwich level crossing at Willenhall Lane is closed. It is part of work to modernise the signalling system on the Chase Line between Walsall and Rugeley. The signal box, which dates back more than 50 years, will be demolished during the work.

during the work. Willenhall Lane will be

Willenhall Lane will be closed where it meets the level crossing with Reeves Street until September 1. Network Rail spokesman Ben Herbert said: "This is part of a wider resignalling in Walsall dates back to around 1965. It is investment to replace what is very old equipment with modern equipment which is very reliable."

The new CCTV-style sig-

reliable."

The new CCTV-style signalling system is separate to the multi-million pound plans for electrification of

plans for electrification of the route.

It means Bloxwich level crossing will start to be con-trolled from the West Mid-lands signalling centre.

The construction project is being carried out despite long-term proposals for the Reeves Street crossing to be permanently closed as part of the £30m electrification of

of the £30m electrification of the line by the end of 2017. It is one of a series of improvements by Network Rail which are being sup-ported by Walsall Council.

# Rail crossing closure for Clos by U-turn over Pinfold Centre

WALSALL Council has made a U-turn on its plans to bulldoze an education complex to make way for a multi-million pound leisure centre scheme in Bloxwich, which means 40 jobs have been saved.

Plans to demolish the Pinfold Centre, used by a charity that provides train-ing courses, to make way for a car park for a new leisure centre have been withdrawn just over a month after first being lodged.

Fears were voiced that

the proposals would put the Frank F Harrison Community Association and dozens of jobs in jeopardy, prompting council bosses to say the authority would work with the charity to find it a new home.

### Leisure

But charity bosses were rejoicing on Monday as council chiefs announced they intend to revert to the original scheme and build on the existing leisure centre

site.

The community association, which has been provid-ing training in the town for 30 years, has been based at the Field Close centre since

the Field Close centre since February. Bosses said the charity had already spent £20,000 on getting the building ready to provide a range of training courses, including English, maths and construction, from September.

### by Lisa O'Brien

Debra Mohammed, business manager at Frank F Harrison, said: "The council did assure us they would have found somewhere else for us to go if they had continued with their plan, but we are absolutely relieved with this result. "This means we will not have to move. They have decided to go back to the original plans." We can keep our centre open and keep providing training opportunities for people in the area."

The charity currently delivers construction courses from the Construc-

delivers construction courses from the Construc-tion Skills Centre, in Leamore Lane, but it has to vacate that venue by the end of this month. The Education Support Centre, in Field Road, will also be saved due to the withdrawal of the plans. New leisure centres are

withdrawal of the plans. New leisure centres are planned for Oak Park and Bloxwich under a £15m scheme to replace outdated facilities. The new leisure centre in Bloxwich, which will replace the existing complex in High Street, is expected to include a six-lane swimming pool.



Bloxwich-based Miss Teen Galaxy Wales Jess Watts is waiting to hear from American judges

## Jogging to fitness in sessions by volunteers VOLUNTEERS are being

encouraged to take part in jogging sessions at Bloxwich

jogging sessions at Bloxwich Leisure Centre.

Jog Walsall is run by the council's sport and leisure team and helpers are needed to help run the classes. Sessions are also being held at Walsall Arboretum, Willenhall E-ACT Academy and University of Wolver-hampton's Walsall campus.

Richard Upton, Walsall Council active lifestyles officer, said: "We have a really packed programme of jogs at venues across the jogs at venues across the borough which is down to our wonderful team of vol-

A BEAUTY queen from Bloxwich has returned from a trip to America after taking part in an interna-tional pageant. Jess Watts, Walsall our wonders unteers. "We are always looking to "We are always looking to expand the programme and would love to hear from anyone interested in taking on a leader's role. Sessions will be held at Bloxwich Leisure Centre today (Thursday) from 5.45pm. For more information call 01922 658078 or email uptonr@walsall.gov.uk

taking part in an international pageant.

Jess Watts, Walsall Mayor's youth ambassador, represented Wales in the contest held in Orlando, Florida.

The 18-year-old has taken part in numerous pageants before but this time she competed against entrants from all over the world in Miss Teen Galaxy International. Her mother Carol said: "We don't yet know where she placed in the competition but it is a fantastic achievement to get this far. "It is such an achievement to even be selected to represent Wales and it has been a wonderful experience for Jess. She has come away with many memories and made friends from all over the world."

The beauty specialist, who runs a salon in Cannock, qualified to represent Wales because of her family's Welsh heritage.

### **Mayor is guest** at centre fete

THE opening of a new day care facility in Bloxwich will be marked with a summer fete later this month. It will be held at the Stan Ball Centre in Abbotts Street on August 22 from 11am and 2pm.

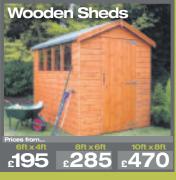
The Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Mohammed

Councillor Mohan Nazir, is due to attend. Mohammed

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**Express & Star** 

# What's On! Walsall

## A half price night with Fizzog and co

BLACK Country Living Museum is to throw open its doors 'after hours' for an evening of family-friendly activities.

Fire jugglers, mime artists, living statues, face painting and fairground rides will be on offer for people visiting on Saturday. There will also be a Charlie Chaplin impersonator and Fizzog Productions will put on a performance of

Fizzog Productions will put on a performance of Goldilocks with a Black Country twist. Tickets are half the normal admission price and can be booked by calling 0121 520 8054 or online at www.bclm.com.

### Tomorrow's stars in New Alex show

in New Alex show
CELEBRATING its 10th
anniversary Birmingham's
New Alexandra Theatre
Stage Experience continues to offer a showcase for
the brightest and best
young talent from across
the West Midlands
The youngsters have
been working with a profesional production team and
an orchestra for two weeks
to present a production of
popular musical Annie.
The 'Tomorrow' musical
will be staged from August
21 to 23. For tickets call the
box office on 0844 871 3011.

### Fun at the museum

A FUN day is at Walsall Leather Museum on August 28. Puppets and balloon modelling will be on offer at Littleton Street West, taking place between 10.30am and 4pm.

# Win pairs of tickets to Black Country's own rock festival

Holiday weekend as fund raising music festival Judgestock

Main support acts are Mitchel Emms from the BBC's The Voice, Alabama 3 and R&B sensation Lemar. There will be local bands including XLr8 and tributes to Thin Lizzy, Pink, Lady Gaga and Michael Jackson.

Lizzy, Pink, Lady Gaga and Michael Jackson.

Judgestock is dedicated to the memory of Simon Turton, a local man who lost his battle with cancer in 2011. Simon was an old school friend of festival organiser, Lee Judge, and the money raised will be going to aid Macmillan Cancer Support and the Mayor of Sandwell's charities.

Tickets for the event cost £12 plus booking fee per day for adults, or £30 plus booking fee for the three days event, £6 per day plus booking fee or £15 plus booking fee or £15 plus booking fee for the three days event, £10 plus booking fee for the three days for children (5-16) with under 5s free when accompanied by a paying adult. See the website www.judge



Kerrang radio's Johnny Doom will compere Judgestock Music Festival stockmusicfestival.co.uk and tickets available on www.ticket master.co.uk.

For your chance to win tell us who Judgestock dedicated to?

Judgestock dedicated to?

Send you answer on a postcard,
with your name, address and telephone number, to Judgestock Competition, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53

Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1

1ES. Closing date August 23. Usual
rules apply and the editor's decision is
final.

## Plant is back on road with a new group

HE'LL turn 65 on August 20 but Black Country rock icon Robert Plant is working harder than ever. The star will headline Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on September 2 with his new band: Robert Plant Presents Sensational Space Shifters.

He has been on the road in recent times, telling audiences: "This is one of the most stimulating times in my life." His shows have featured Led Zeppelin material, which has satisfied many fans eager for the thunder of the 1970s act that sold as many as 300 million records. His gigs have featured Babe I'm Gonna Leave You, Rock and Roll, Black Dog, Whole Lotta Love and Who Do You

Dog, Whole Lotta Love and Who Do You Love?

Love?
Plant is playing a small number of UK
dates on his present tour. His tour starts
in Bristol with a date at the Colston Hall
on August 29 before moving onto the
Stradbelly Estate for its Electric Picnic.
He stops off in Wolverhampton for his
one-off gig at the Civic before returning
on October 29 for a headline at Manchester's Apollo.



Robert Plant – the icon is 65 next week and still rocking

### V exciting star line-up at weekend

A STAR-STUDED pop and rock line-up of more than 80 acts will be taking part in this weekend's V Festival at Weston Park, near Wolverhampton.

Topping the bill on Saturday night will be Americans Kings of Leon with support from Welshrockers Stereophonics.

Other stages will offer more dance-orientated alternatives with Calvin Harris, Rita Ora and Basement Jaxx, or the jazz sound of Jamie Cullum.

Other acts during Satur-

sound of Jamie Cullum.
Other acts during Saturday including, aptly, pop princesses The Saturdays, plus Emeli Sande, Rudimental, Tom Odel, McFly, Lawson, Ellie Goulding, Naughty Boy, Birming-ham's Laura Mvula and rising star John Newman.
Or if comedy's your

Or if comedy's your thing, the stand-ups on Saturday duty include Jon Richardson, Rob Rouse and Paul Chowdhury.

### Beyonce

Megastar Beyonce tops the bill on Sunday with support from The Script, Jessie J, Paloma Faith, and Two Door Cinema Club. Whilst James and Deacon

Whilst James and Deacon Blue will be warming up the crowds earlier on. The other stages offer alternative headliners Steve Angello, Brum's Ocean Colour Scene and Benjamin Francis Left-wich. The day's comedy superstar is Eddie Izzard.

For latest information visit www.vfestival.com

The owners of Five Rivers Leamington Spa and 4500 miles from Delhi are proud to announce that Fiesta World Buffet & Bar is now part of their family.





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Opening **Times** 

Thursday Friday

12.00 - 3.30pm 12.00 - 3.30pm 12.00 - 4.00pm

5.00 - 10.30pm 5.00 - 11.00pm 5.00 - 11.00pm

### What's On!

### **SATURDAY'S TV** 17.08.13

### CHOICE



### Alexander Armstrong

### Pointless Celebrities BBC1, 5.45pm

Alexander Armstrong and his Richard Osman return for another helping of teasers in which famous faces have to guess which is the least popular answer on the board. For example, if we said: 'Name two stars of Red Dwarf', chances are Craig Charles and Danny John-Jules would feature rather high. We could ask you to name a couple of stars of one of the Beeb's another enormous hits, Mrs Brown's Boys. Yes, you could say Brendan O'Carroll and Jennifer Gibney. As you probably guessed, Craig, Danny, Brendan and Jennifer are all taking part in this week's show.

### BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. A round-up of the latest sports news. 1.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Atlentics: World Championships. 5.25 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.45 Pointless Celebritles.

Pointless Gelebrities.

6.35 That Puppet Game Show.

7.15 I Love My Country. Sally
Lindsay, Gemma Atkinson,
Billy Boyd, Michael Ball, Greg
Rutherford and Faye Tozer
demonstrate their knowledge
of all things British. Game
show, hosted by Gabby

Logan.

8.00 The National Lottery: Break
the Safe. Nick Knowles
hosts the game show in
which three couples take part
in several quiz sessions in a
bid to be the last pair
standing, includes the
National Cultery results with

OJ Borg.

Casually, Part two of two.

Zoe returns to find the ED in

chaos and Jamie barricaded

inside her office with Ramin,

and as the situation

escalates, the nurse must

put his training to the test.

Michael Michigre's Comedy

Micky Flanagan, Jo Cauffield

and Jon Richardson. (R)

and Jon Richardson. (R)
10.10 BBC News: Weather
10.30 Match of the Day. Highlights
of the opening matches of
the Premier League season;
National Lottery Update.
11.55 The Football League Show.
Highlights of today's games
in the Championship, League
One and League Two.
1.10 Weatherview. 1.15 BBC News.

Mayfair and Oueen Anne mo

### BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. 7.30 Film:
My Life with Caroline. (1941) 8.50
Film: Underwater! (1955) 10.25
Reel History of Britain. (R) 10.55
The Private Life of Plants. (R)
1.45 University Challenge. (R)
12.15 Athlettes: World
Championships. 1.15 Escape to the
Country. (R) 2.00 Exploring China.
Wild China. (R) 4.00 Urban Jungle.
4.30 Final Score. Round-up of
football results. 5.30 Coast.
6.00 Flog II!
7.00 Proms Extra 2013. Katie
Derham presents a review of
this week's concerts and
there is an interview with
Marin Alsop, who is set to
become the first woman to
conduct the Last Night of the
Proms.
7.40 Dad's Army. Corooral

Jones's fitness to serve is tested. (R)

Thatcher – The Downing
Street Years. Documentary from 1993 examining the former Conservative prime minister's 11 years in office between 1979 and 1990,

9.10 Top of the Lake. Matt reveals a secret that leaves Robin in despair, but the detective summons up her last reserves of strength to try to find Tui before her father can. I act in the series

Last in the series.

10.10 QI XL. With Sue Perkins,
Ross Noble and Professor
Brian Cox. (R)

11.00 Film: Rabbit-Proof Fence.
(2002) Fact-based Australian drama, starring Everlyn

**12.25 Film:** 2 Days in Paris. (2007) **2.00** This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.15 Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.25 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.40 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Bookbob. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Bookbob. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Bookbob. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.35 The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroest 8.00 Gravity Falls. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Dinner Date. (R) 9.25 Saturday Cookbook. (R) 10.20 Murder. She Wrote. (R) 11.20 Saturday Fam. 12.25 Countrywise. (R) 12.35 ITV News; Weather. 12.40 All ISTar Mr & Mrs. (R) 1.45 Film: Smokey and the Bandit II. (1980) 3.35 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.03 Regional Programme: Weather. 5.45 ITV News; Weather.

s; Weather.

You've Been Framed! Harry
Hill narrates a selection of
camcorder calamities and
viewers' mobile-phone
footage, including cute
children, silly seniors
and animats unable to get
along, (R)

You've Been Framed!
Unilkely insurance claims.
(R)

6.30

(R) Film: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. (2007) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

Radcliffe

9.40 The Americans. The Jennings plot their next nove carefully when they meet an American asset who plans to give them highly classified information, while Stan gains an unprecedented opportunity.

10.36 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 Film: State of Play. (2009) Political thriller, starring Russell Crowe.

nussell Crowe.

1.00 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 3.40 ITV Nightscreen

### **CHANNEL 4**

6.05 British GT. 6.30 The Grid. 7.00 IPC Swimming World 6.05 British GT. 6.30 The Grid.
7.00 IPC Swimming World
Championships 2013. 8.00 The
Morning Line 9.00 Everybody
Loves Raymond. 9.00 Everybody
Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The
Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The
Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The
Simpsons. (R) 12.30 Undercover
Boss Australia. (R) 1.30 Channel
Racing. 4.10 V Festival 2013.
8.00 Everybody
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1990s IV series, with lom
Cruise and Jon Voight.

9.00 Film: Knight and Day,
(2010) A woman gets
kidnapped and dragged into
a rogue secret agents
me after he is framed as a traito.
Comedy adventure, starring
Tom Cruise.

11.10 Stephen Merchant: Hello
Ladies. The Office cocreator's critically acclaimed
2011 stand-up comedy
show, based on his
experiences of the rocky
road to finding love.
12.10 V Festival 2013: Saturday
Highlights. 1.35 Crazy about One
Direction. (R) 2.35 Hollyoaks. (R)
4.50 Countdown. (R) 5.30 Baking
Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

### **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshakel 10.00 Power Rangers: Megaforce 10.35 Slugterra 11.00 Inside Hollywood. 11.05 Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) 12.30 Film: The Battle of the V1. (1958) 2.30 Film: Anzio. (1968) 4.50 Film: Columbo: Ashes to Ashes. (1998)

 6.35 Film: Jesse Stone: Benefit of the Doubt. (2012) The troubled cop returns to his role as chief of police to bring the perpetrators of a Mob-related double Mob-related double homicide to justice. Detective thriller, with Tom Selleck. 8.05 NCIS. An ex-serviceman is beaten to death in his own

beaten to death in his own back garden, and the agents are forced to consider the possibility his wife – a marine and martial arts expert – is the killer (R) 9.00 NCIS. The team is forced to undergo psychological evaluations while evaluations while submartine's commanding officer. (R) 9.50 News Weekend.

officer. (R)
9.50 5 News Weekend.
10.00 Big Brother. Another chance to see last night's eviction, in which one unlucky housemate missed out on a place in the final week in the house.

house.

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the
Psych. AJ Odudu is joined by
a panel of psychologists and
celebrity fans to analyse the
housemates' behaviour in
the lead-up to Monday's
final.

final.

12.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Wildlife
SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50
Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.00
Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.05 Hana's
Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm.
(R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show.
(R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)
5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)

### **DIGITAL**

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2011:
Not in 3D 7.15 Film: Shanghai
Noon (2000) Comedy Western,
Starring Jackie Chan and Owen
Wilson. 9.00 Film: Armageddon (1998) Sci-fi thriller, starring Bruce Willis. 11.20 Family Guy

BBC Four 7.00 Precision: The Measure of All Things 8.00 Tiger – Spy in the Jungle 9.00 Sebastian Bergman 10.30 Quadrophenia – Can You See the Real Me? 11.40 The Who at the Electric Proms

ITV2
3.00 Film: What a Girl Wants
(2003) 5.05 Film: Step Up 2: The
Streets (2008) 7.00 You've Been
Framed! 9.00 Film: The Bourne
Supremacy (2004) 11.15 Film: Red
Dragon (2002)
1TV3

1743
2.45 Film: The Mirror Crack'd
(1980) 4.50 inspector Morse 7.00
Foyle's War 9.00 Lewis. The death
of an Oxford don leads to the shady
underworld of unlicensed boxing.
11.00 Wire in the Blood

ITV4
3.05 Film: Police Academy 4:
Citizens on Patrol (1987) 4.50 Film:
Where Eagles Dare (1969) 8.00
Black Gold 9.00 Film: Demolition
Man (1993) 11.20 Film: Magnum
Force (1973)

5.30 The Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Suburgatory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 Happy Endings 9.00 Film: The Beach (2000) 11.20 PhoneShop 11.55 The Inbetweeners

2.55 August Rush (2007) 5.05 T Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage unronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **7.15** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Ugly Truth (2009) **10.50** Machete (2010)

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Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) (GDC108353) with Denture Clinic manager Peter Brookes (GDC124429)

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# THERE'S seemingly an impossible

amalgamation between glamour and dentures, but these unlikely descriptive are increasingly thrown together at a Wolverhampton

Under the watchful eve of denturist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), founder of the Dudley-based Denture

Clinic. regular surgeries held at his Tettenhall Road practice are helping patients turn back the hands of time.

The practice is part of a growing portfolio of locations with surgeries also at North Street, Dudley; Fresh Dental St Mary's Road, Bearwood; and most recently, Comberton Dental Surgery in Comberton Road, Kidderminster.

A champion for those who wear dentures, Steven has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth." He is evangelical about what new generation denture prescriptions

can achieve. "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he

"People have come to us with

Let us help you to regain lost looks and boost your confidence

Complete dentures
 Partial dentures
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 Implant-retained dentures
 Same-day repairs
 Relines
 Soft linings

# our smile is priceless



ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Emphatically, yes.

"We remain on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on the best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary salt-of-theearth people from the Black Country."

clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted boratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting

of prescriptions are all in-house.
"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about

the quality of teeth we supply.
"We will never compromise on best clinical outcomes and that same ethos is core to all of our clinics. We are always reimagining what dentures can achieve."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully, presenting some "monumental" challenges.

"Many patients have had a bad deal or years, but we are in the vanguard f changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too, said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons

### **Options**

### **Traditional**

THE Denture Clinic is renowned for its natural look. Denturist Steven **Burchell Dip CDT RCS** (Eng), says: "Quality, traditional dentures can be hugely effective."

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www.denture-clinic.co.uk

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The Denture Clinic

82 Tettenhall Road

### What's On!

### **SUNDAY'S TV** 18.08.13

### CHOICE



### The White Queen BBC1, 9pm

The last episode of this series doesn't bring much joy for Queen of England Anne Neville. Her health is deteriorating and what with the death of son Prince Edward and then hearing of her husband's love for Princess Elizabeth, she resigns herself to her fate. However, Anne's determined to clear her conscience first, and even manages to bury the hatchet with Elizabeth, but just as an eclipse occurs, the Queen passes away. Anne's death means there's now a chance for Elizabeth's first-born daughter Princess Elizabeth to marry her uncle King Richard III.

6.00 Breakfast. 8.35 Match of the Day. (R) 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Bargain Hunt. 12.40 Athletics: World Country, (R) 5.00 Songs of Praise. 5.35 Britain's Big Wildlife Revival. 6.35 BBC News: Renipan News:

7.00 Countryfile. In south Oxfordshire, Julia Bradbury Oxtordshire, Julia Bradbury explores the Wittenham Clumps and John Craven lends a hand on a farm that is providing work experience for people with learning difficulties.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News;

difficulties.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. New series. Items on show at Polesden Lacey in Surrey include a glove thought to have belonged to Elizabeth I and a brooch kept hidden for years while its owner was in a Pow cann.

years writte its owner was in a PoW camp.

9.00 The White Queen. The death of Anne provides hope that Princess Elizabeth and Richard III will marry, but battle looms with Henry Tudor waiting to invade and rudor waiting to invade and claim the throne. Last in the

10.00 BBC News; Regional News;

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents action Chapman presents action from today's Premier League fixtures, which were Crystal Palace v Tottenham Hotspur at Selhurst Park and Chelsea v Hull City at Stamford Bridge.

11.25 That Puppet Game Show.

12.05 Film: Nothing to Lose. (1997) 1.40 Weatherview. 1.45

### BBC<sub>2</sub>

BBC2

8.00 This Is BBC Two 6.45 Film:
The Lost Moment (1047) 8.00
Around the World in 80 Gardens.
(R) 9.00 Gardenser World (R)
9.30 The Beengrove Garden.
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.
11.30 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) 12.00 EastEnders.
1.55 Coast J. 28 Film: Khakataa,
1.55 Coast J. 28 Film: Khakataa,
Special. (R) 5.30 Flog Ittle
6.30 Live MotoGP. The
Indianapolis Grand Prix
(Start-time 7.00pm).
Coverage from the

(Start-time 7.00pm).
Coverage from the
Indianapolis Motor
Speedway, as the riders
battle for points in the 10th
round of the season.
8.00 Dragons' Den. An
embarrassing malfunction
affects a product designer's
pitch, and a married couple
hope a Brazilian dance
troupe will encourage the
Dragons to invest in a range
of cooking sauces.

of cooking sauces.
9.00 The Hairy Bikers:
Restoration Road Trip. Si
King and Dave Myers help
rebuild an early traction
engine before learning how it
revolutionised farming, and
restore a rare barge once
used to transport coal on
Britain's canals.

10.00 Blackadder the Third. Prince George hires two actors to improve his speech-making. (R)

10.30 Film: Frost/Nixon. (2008)
British broadcaster and
journalist David Frost sets up
a series of interviews with
disgraced former US
president Richard Nixon. Drama, with Frank Langella

12.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 1.20 Holby City. (R) 2.20 This Is

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.15 Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.25 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.40 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.40 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.40 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.50 P

10.00 ITV News; Weather. 10.10 ITV News; weather.

10.15 Perspectives: Warwick
Davis – The Seven Dwarts
of Auschwitz. A Jewish
family of travelling musicians
who survived the
concentration camp. (R)

11.15 Murder. She Wrote 11.15 Murder, She Wrote. International intrigue is on the cards for Jessica. (R) 12.10 The Store. 2.15 British Superbike Championship Highlights. 3.30 Motorsport UK. 4.15 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

### **CHANNEL 4**

CHANNEL 4
6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10
The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 fromman
2013. 7.00 IPC Swimming World
Championships 2013. 7.55
Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R)
9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The
Simpsons. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R)
9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The
Simpsons. (10.00 Th

theme. Last in the series. (H)

8.00 The Mill. Lucy and Esther
set out to expose Mr
Timperley, convinced he is
responsible for Catherine's
disappearance, while Robert
breaks bad news at the
factory. Last in the series.

Tactory. Last in the series.

9.00 Southcliffe. One year on, an anonymous letter reawakens David's fear that Morton is alive, so the reporter returns to Southcliffe – and suspects a new threat is imminent. Last in the series.

Last in those with the Last in those with the Last in those with a 10.0 SF lim. Dear clubn. (2010) A soldier falls in love with a student, but their relationship is put to the test when he decides to return to duty. Romantic drama, starring Channing Iatum and Arnanda Seyfried.

12.05 V Festival 2013 Highlights.
1.30 FIlm: Baaria. (2009) 4.10 A Film from My Parish. (f) 4.20 Time Dear. (f) 5.15 Countdown. (f)

### **CHANNEL 5**

CHANNEL 5
6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05
Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi
and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bubble
Guppies. (R) 6.40 The M Men
Show. (R) 6.50 Chole's Closet.
7.65 Rooban and Custard Ton. (R)
7.65 Rooban and Rooban and Rooban
8.67 Rooban and Rooban
8.67 Rooban and Rooban
8.67 Rooban
8

Hitch. (2005)

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Regina uses magic to give Belle a set of false memories.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother. The last daily round-up before the final as the remaining housemates focus their eyes on the main prize, having survived almost 10 weeks at Big Brother's pleasure.

10.00 Film: Next. (2007) Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage.

starring Nicolas Cáge.
1.55 Film. Above the Law. (1988)
Thriller, with Steven Seagal.
1.45 Super-Casion. 4.00 Wildlife
SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50
Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.10 Hana's
Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm.
(R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show.
(R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)

Low Price

### **DIGITAL**

BBC Three
7.00 Robin Hood 7.45 Great Movie
Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with
You 8.15 Film: Shanghal Knights
(2003) 10.00 Family Guy 10.45
Boom Town 11.15 American Dad!

BBC Four 7.00 A Poet's Guide to Britain 7.30 Proms on Four: 20th Century Classics 9.00 Review Show 10.00 The Fairytale Castles of King Ludwi

II with Dan Cruickshank **11.00** Alan Whicker's Journey of a Lifetime

TIV2
3.15 Film: The Mighty Ducks
(1992) 5.25 Film: Johnny English
(2003) 7.15 Film: The Scorpion
King (2002) 9.00 Film: The
Shawshank Redemption (1994)
11.50 Hell's Kitchen

3.40 Murder, She Wrote 4.35 Wycliffe 6.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 Film: Dangerous Liaisons (1988) 11.35 A Touch of Frost

1TV4
1.25 Film: The Manchurian
Candidate (1962) 4.00 Film: Paths
of Glory (1977) 5.45 Film: Aces
High (1976) 8.00 Film: Police
Academy 5. Assignment Miami
Beach (1988) 10.00 Film: National
Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1
(1993)

5.30 How I Met Your Mother 5.30 Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.30 New Girl 8.00 Film: New in Town (2009) 10.00 The Inbetweeners 10.30 Don't Trust the

FIIM4
2.55 Carry On Teacher (1959) 4.40
Love Happens (2009) 6.50 Mad
Money (2008) 9.00 The Lord of the
Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

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### What's On!

### **Film Choices**

MONDAY
The Perfect Assistant, Channel 5, 3.15pm The Perfect Assistant, Channel 5, 3.1bpm
A woman becomes obsessively infatuated with her
boss, but does not act on her desires. However, when
his wife becomes seriously III, she sees an opportunity
to murder her, so the object of her affection will be
available. Thriller, starring Josie Davis, Chris Potter and Sophie Gendron. (2008)

While My Pretty One Sleeps, Channel 5, 3.10pm
A prominent gossip columnist is murdered before she can expose a scandal in the fashion industry. However can expose a scandar in the tashion industry. However, a tenacious boutique owner's curiosity is piqued by the case and she begins her own investigation — only to end up in danger from the Mafia. Murder mystery based on Mary Higgins Clark's novel, starring Connie Sellecca, Beau Starr and Frankie Pellegrino. (1997)



### WEDNESDAY

The Da Vinci Code, Channel 5, 9pm
A respected academic goes on the run when he is framed for the murder of a French historian. Pursued by the detective on the case and a sinister assassin monk the detective of mask the culprit, leading to a conspiracy determined to preserve a 2,000-year-old secret at any cost. Thriller based on Dan Brown's novel, starring Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Ian McKellen. (2006)

### Smart People, BBC1, 11.35pm

Misanthropic professor Lawrence Wetherhold engages in a faltering romance with a former student, but his self-absorption threatens to wreck their relationship. He also has to contend with his freeloading brother, who is determined to get Lawrence's uptight, achievement-obsessed teenage daughter to lead a normal life. Comedy drama, starring Dennis Quaid. (2008)

THURSDAY
The Pledge, ITV, 10.35pm
A Nevada cop is on the verge of retiring when a
desperate woman begs him to find whoever is
responsible for her seven-year-old daughter's murder.
Unable to turn her down, he begins an unofficial
investigation, sure that the man his former colleagues suspect is innocent – but as he draws closer to the killer, he becomes increasingly obsessed. Drama, directed by Sean Penn and starring Jack Nicholson. (2000)

### Pitch Black, ITV, 10,35pm

A spaceship crashes on a desolate alien planet inhabited by nocturnal predators. The creatures' fear of light seems to guarantee the survivors' safety – but when an eclipse es place, they face a desperate struggle to survive. Sci-fi horror, starring Vin Diesel. (2000)

### Pick of the Week

## **Robin is left stunned** by Matt's hidden secret

Top of the Lake is a classic mythic struggle," says Jane Campion, the acclaimed writer and director who co-created the series

Those who've watched the entire series, which ends this week, would no doubt agree with her; they'd also add that it's been completely riveting

But has tuning in been an enjoyable experience? The word 'enjoy' is perhaps not appropriate in this case – "endured" is probably more fitting.

"endured" is probably more fitting.

Not that the plot hasn't been gripping, moving and intriguing, to claiming to have enjoyed something involving such a gruelling experience as watching the fall-out from a pregnant 12-year-old sidaspperarance seems wrong. Nevertheless, we've continued to ture in, utlerly transfer with university transfer of the property of the p with, unusually these days, a completely unguessable finale.

And as it all draws to a close this evening, with a bit of luck, we can soon all get back to having fun on a Saturday night instead of feeling emotionally drained.

The main focus of the drama has een Robin (Elisabeth Moss), a cop

specialising in child cases. She grew up in the area where the story has taken place, but it's her first return there since a traumatic event in her there since a traum own youthful years.

own youthful years.

However, always lurking in the background has been Matt Mitcham, the father of pregnant Tui. He's an odd character who also seems to have baffled Peter Mullan, the acclaimed Scottish actor who also been being being the second to the second the plays him.

"I can't tell you much about Matt because I'd never profess to know a character," says Mullan. 'All you can do is kind of find their soul. The rest takes care of itself.

care of insert. "He simply exists in his own world and he has his own rules and he has his own is well as and he has his own issues, shall we say, not least of which is a certain march of self-loathing, a fairly complex relationship with his mother, a very complex relationship with his kids, and a certain sense of entitlement.

"He's good fun and he's a bit wicked in the sense that he'll do things some people would wish they could do. And he's rude and abrasive and massively,

massively insecure and full of all his own self-pity."

own self-pity."

Mullan also describes Matt as "a bit alpha male," which is an understatement, Matt is in complete control of his family.

"His kids love him only because he's all that's there to love," explains the actor. "I've no interest in making someone sympathetic. What I am interested in is, even though one may not like someone they're as human as the next person."

Mat is certainly in the thick of thisse.

Matt is certainly in the thick of things as the final episode begins.

Robin's obsession with finding Tui reaches boiling point as she realises the little girl's due date is drawing ever closer. She visits Matt, determined to once and for all get some useful information from him.

Matt has something to say, but his news leaves Robin in utter despair.

Nevertheless, she digs deep, soldiers on and heads off to find Tui before her father can get his hands on her – but she isn't prepared for shocking conclusion that's about to confront her...



Elisabeth Moss stars in Top of the Lake, Saturday, BBC2, 9.10pm

### **Best of the Rest**

Top Boy, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

### MONDAY

### The Incredible Spice Men BBC2, 8,30pm

driety, they say, is the spice of life. Except when it comes to cooking – then spice is the spice of life, and two chefs in particular know exactly how to eke he most out of it. In this new five-part series, Tony Singh and Cyrus Todiwala set out to demonstrate angli and Cyrus rodiwals as to be improved even further with clever use of herbs and spices. They start out in Hastings, East Sussex, where they show how ginger and lime can help to complement the subtle flavour of Dover sole.

### Big Brother: The Final

Channel 5, 9pm In 1986, Nine-and-a-Half Weeks became one of the most talked about movies of the era. The same amount of time has been spent on the far less steamy run of Big Brother. Alan Partridge lookalike Dexter has been good value for money admittedly and the twins, Jack and Joe have raised a few giggles. As for Hazel, Charlie, Gina, Sam and Sophie? They captured the imaginations of some surviving eviction well into early August. Now ther are just a few hours to go until Big Brother bows out for another series. Emma Willis will reveal who is the latest winner in a double bill wrapped around nuch hyped new import, Under the Dome

### TUESDAY

### he Great British Bake Off

BBC2, 8pm

Bakers up and down the nation have had their egos stroked by the trailers for series four of the

ratings winner already, as it proclaimed: "Cake; It's What Makes Us Great." The ensuing weeks, however, will be spent hammering them back down again, as we see just how high a bar Mary Berry again, as we see just how high a bar Mary berry and Paul Hollywood set for baking excellence. This week's opener focuses purely on cakes – and let's face it, if our amateur bakers can't master those, what business do they have in Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins' kitchen tent? First up, they have to make a traditional sandwich cake, before the technical challenge sees them take on an angel food cake, and a chocolate-based cake in the showstopper round.

### Top Boy Channel 4, 9pm

It's two years since we last saw Dushane, the charming, sexy, clever but unlawful central character in Bonan Bennett's Baffa-nominated character in Honan Bennetts Batta-nominated drama. Now he's back on our screens, and much has changed. He's now a high-flier, a real player in the world of his boss, Joe. But there's a storm brewing involving Dushane's former right-hand man Sully, who is now a potentially dangerous rival with a new partner in crime, the violent and volatile Mike. It looks as if their bubble is about to be burst when they're arrested for the murder of a mutual rival but Dushane has an ace up his sleeve in the shape of beautiful solicitor Rhianna, who is so sharp, she gives him a run for

his money as well as the police

### WEDNESDAY Who Do You Think You Are?

### BBC1, 9pm

It's been a few years since Gary Lineker was a star on the pitch, but thanks to his presenting duties on Match of the Day, not to mention those ubiquitous crisp adverts, he's rarely been out of the public eye since; on Saturday, August 17 alone he's in That Pruppet Show, and a new run of MOTD. But this show is less about him and more about his family, including his great-great-great grandfather James Pratt. He was a poacher in Victorian England who served time in Leicester Prison. Gary investigates

why his ancestor became a repeat offender, and also researches his times great grandfather Thomas Billingham.

The Culture Show at Edinburgh: BBC2, 10pm

It's a funny old business stand-up comedy, and not always funny ha ha. It's a sad fact that there just aren't that many great female standups out there.

However, the likes
of Bridget Christie, Claudia O'Doherty and Dana ttempting to redress the

balance with their turns at the Edinburgh Festival. Sue Perkins will be spotlighting their talents, as well as chatting to Lucy Porter, Jo Caulfield, Andi Osho and Shappi Khorsandi. They all reveal how and why they got into comedy, along with one of British showbusiness's most reliable funny women

### **THURSDAY**

### Poaching Wars with Tom Hardy ITV, 9pm

We're a nation of animal lovers, us Brits, which makes us not too dissimilar, funnily enough, to Bafta Award-winning Tom Hardy. Sure, the actor has wowed us with performances in the likes of Bronson, Inception and The Dark Knight Rises, but for a one-off, he's not putting on an act - we're about to watch him exercising his love for animals, as he travels to South Africa, Botswana and Tanzania. Yep, this time he's got an altogether different agenda - to uncover the truth about why poaching elephants and rhinos has reached crisis levels and to see for himself what can be done to put an end to the killing.

### FRIDAY Emmerdale

Normally the plot thickens in soaps, but in Emmerdale one is being dug up - namely the glamping site. It marks the end of Declan's business dream, but that's just the tip of the dramatic iceberg. Declan is desperate for Jai to invest in his business, but he refuses, so Macey hopes Charity will help change Jai's mind.



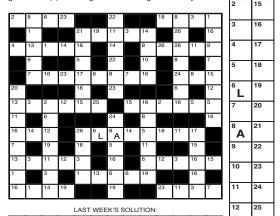
### Puzzler

## **Brain Gym**

No.234

### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



L P A G I R D Z

Q | H | J | F | N | M | Y | W | S | U | B | O | V

### **Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

- 1. One girl that is after another (6)
  4. Sort of hat used by gardeners? (6)
  9. Distinctions that may be stand-
- may be stand-ardised, in a way
- (6,7) **10.** All the same, it suits servicemen
- (7) 11. It's used in a thea-
- 11. It's used in a theatre, or there about!
  (5)
  12. Resplendent part of a flag lowered at sunset (5)
  14. Ultimately refusing applement (5)
- employment (5)

  18. Large group in which order is
- loosely observed 19. It may need a jack
- up before repairing (7)

  21. Dual purpose
- stores for lifeboats? (5-8) 22. Such a game is not for amateurs!
- 23. Spoils a signal and gets into a row (6)

- 1. A sailor has to scowl about toil (6)

  2. Advantageously
- placed for a glamour photograph?
- (7,6)
  3. Northern block-
- house (5)

  5. They give point to work in the theatre
- (7) 6. Surprised having forty winks (6,7) 7. Run and see.
- perhaps, to make certain (6) 8. It's quite rough
- and ready, as a rule (5) 13. Go over the limit and speed too
- much? (7) 15. Appear to expose
- a fraud? (4,2) 16. Moving stair, perhaps (5)
- 17. One would be mad to be out of them!
- (6) 20. Excellent, but
- not fast, way to surpass others (5)

### Quick Clues:

### Across

- 1. Comment (6)
- 4. Builds (6)
- 9. Weighing device (6,7)
- **10.** Lingers (7)
- 11. Subject (5)
- 12. Once more (5)
- 14. Expert (5)
- 18. Repair (5)
- **19.** Baggage (7)
- 21. Frankness (5-8)
- 22. Respect (6)
- 23. Account book (6)

- 1. Outcome (6)
- 2. Wedding celebration (8,5)
- 3. Scope (5)
- 5. Connected (7)
- 6. Meditating (13)
- 7. Searcher (6)
- 8. Revile (5)
- 13. Concentrated (7) 15. Threefold (6)
- 16. Incline (5)
- 17. Mendicant (6)
- 20. Degree (5)

### Sudoku

			5		6			
	7	8		4		9		5
5			8	9	7			4
	4			5			2	
	1						4	
	2			8			7	
4			9	6	8			3
3		1		2		6		
			3		1		5	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIIC - Across: 1 Sound barrier, 7 Dates; 8 Stake; 9 Eon; 10 Out and out; 11 Hamiler; 12 Entomb; 15 Free trade; 17 III; 18 Elgar; 19 Revue; 21 Let well alone. Down: 1 Scene-shifter; 2 Dot; 3 Assets; 4 Resonance; 5 Erato; 6 Led to believe; 7 Denim; 10 Overthrow; 13 Olive; 14 Barrel; 16 Eagle; 20 Via. QUICK - Across: 1 Discomposure; 7 Lithe; 8 Erode; 9 Dry; 10 Pirouette; 11 Afraid; 12 Sample; 15 Turpitude; 17 Era; 18 Guide; 19 Trite; 21 Interruption. Down: 1 Disadvantage; 2 Out; 3 Poetry; 4 Speculate; 5 Roost; 6 Deceleration; 7 Layer; 10 Privilege; 13 Piece; 14 Muster; 16 Reign; 20 Imp.





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# Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Jackson Lile & Close is handling the sale of this four-bed property in Buckingham Road, Penn, priced at £279,500

# **Extended detached is** handy for city centre

extended detached house in Penn described as being beautifully presented is for sale with a price tag of £279,500.

The property in Buckingham Road is close to excellent local shops, schools and bus services with Wolverhampton city centre and the university within

on the ground floor the front living room, 13ft 8in by 12ft 1in, has a feature polished metal fireplace with gas coal

room measuring 12ft by 1ft 1in has a period style pine fireplace with tiled hearth and double doors to the rear garden.

### **Borders**

There is also a fourth bedroom and a There is also a fourth bedroom and a white en suite shower room with cubicle, vanity unit and WC and a dining kitchen – 20ft lin by 8ft – with white inset sink and mixer tap, range of base, drawer and wall units, work surfaces, space for range cooker, stainless steel canopy extractor, plumbing for dishwasher and washing machine,

doors to the garden.
On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of panelled bath with shower and screen and pedestal wash hand basin, with a

separate toilet.

There is a front garden with drive-There is a front garden with drive-way with ample parking space while the rear garden has a raised timber decked area, shaped lawn, borders and fruit trees including apple, pear and plum, plus a metal garden shed and fuel store.

# £375k home has impressive fitted kitchen and di

Avenue, Walsall, has an impressive large refitted dining kitchen with double opening doors onto the

On the ground floor is a guest WC with wash hand basin

French doors to the rear garden and lounge with feature fireplace with inset wood burning stove.

The dining kitchen has a range of wall and base units with

### Shower

Shower

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of WC, pedestal wash hand basin, roll top bath and separate shower cubicle.

Outside to the front the property is set back from the road behind a large gravelled driveway with ample parking and access to a garage, with to the rear various paved patio areas, various paved patio areas, shaped lawn, well stocked shrub borders and mature

trees.
Call Edwards Moore on



The three-bedroom house in Highgate Avenue, Walsall, benefits from a large fitted kitchen

# Corner plot for this semi



This semi in Blackwood Avenue, Wednesfield, is for sale

OCCUPYING a prominent corner position, this well presented and improved semi-detached house in Wednesfield is for sale based on offers around £124,995.

The property in Blackwood Avenue benefits from gas central heating, uPVC double glazing, kitchen, refitted shower room, useful utility room, garage and generous side garden.

side garden.

On the ground floor the lounge/dining room, 20ft 3in by 11ft 5in, has an Adam style fireplace with inset living flame gas fire and French doors to the rear garden while the kitchen – 10ft lin by 7ft 5in – has a one and a half bowl sink, base and wall units, roll top work surfaces, built in oven, split level hob unit and chimney style extractor over, and there is also a utility room, 11ft by 7ft 5in, with plumbing for washing machine.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a shower room with cubicle wash band begin in vanity unit and WC.

with cubicle, wash hand basin in vanity unit and WC.
Outside to the rear is a garage with a paved driveway providing extra parking to the front, a side garden with flower, tree and shrub borders and a courtyard style rear garden with flower, tree and shrub borders.
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Lot 46 Dudley Road Service Station, 367 Dudley Road, Birmingham . Lot 47 13 Green Road, Dudley . Lot 48 Various Plots - Luton & Redhill . Lot 49 The Phoenix, 45 St Johns Street Bedford .	Residential Vacant
Lot 59 White Lodge, 64 Albert Road, Wolverhampton  Lot 51 6 Milford Avenue, Balsall Heath, Birmingham  Lot 52 Land at Ashes Road, Titford, Oldbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 53 28 Middleton Road, Kidderminster	Residential VacantCommercial VacantResidential InvestmentResidential Investment
Lot 58 182 Maryland Avenue, Hodge Hill, Birmingham Lot 59 202 Coleman Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton Lot 60 8 Nevin Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham Lot 61 169 Cole Valley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham Lot 62 62 Fowlmere Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	LandResidential VacantResidential Vacant
Lot 63 1 Knowle Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham Lot 64 162 Tyburn Road, Erdington, Birmingham Lot 65 249 Mary Vale Road, Bournville, Birmingham Lot 66 6 Beaconsfield Road, Parkfields, Wolverhampton Lot 67 259 Coleshill Heath Road, Marston Green,	Residential VacantCommercial InvestmentResidential Vacant
Birmingham	Land Residential Vacant Land Land Mam Residential Vacant Commercial Vacant

	Cenal & Was	san
	Lot 74 36 Port Street, Evesham, Worcestershire	
l	Lot 75 405 Chester Road, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield	
ı	Lot 76 61 Mason Road, Erdington, Birmingham	
ı	Lot 77 164 Hawthorn Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	
ı	Lot 78 Flat 8 Queenswood House, Brandwood Road, Kings Heath, Birmin	
ı	Lot 79 The Kings Head Inn, 15 Mill Street, Brierley Hill	
ı	Lot 80 33 Kenelm Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	
l	Lot 81 St Andrews Church, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury	
ı	Lot 82 652 Pershore Road, Selly Park, Birmingham	
ı	Lot 83 19 Hereward Rise, Halesowen, West Midlands	Commercial Investment
l	Lot 84 Units 5, 6 & 7 Cheston Industrial Estate, Cheston Road Nechells, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
l	Lot 85 3 Birmingham Street, Dudley Commercial Vacant / Development / Re	development Opportunity
ı	Lot 86 7 Tranwell Close, Pendeford, Wolverhampton	
ı	Lot 87 310 Tessall Lane, Northfield, Birmingham	
ı	Lot 88 89 Holly Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
ı	Lot 89 207 Aldershaw Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
ı	Lot 90 478 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment
l	Lot 91 29 Belle Walk, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
ı	Lot 92 43 Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
ı	Lot 93 40 Rivendell Court, 1051 Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
ı	Lot 94 Ariba, 98A Robert Street, Dudley	Residential Vacant
ı	Lot 95 15 Endwood Court, Handsworth Wood Road, Handsworth Wood	
l	Birmingham	
l	Lot 96 28 Cross Street, Willenhall	
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ı	Lot 99 71 York Crescent, Wollaston, Stourbridge	
ı	Lot 100 33 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich	
ı	Lot 101 27 Phillip Road, Tipton, West Midlands	
ı	Lot 102 150 Taylor Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	
	Lot 103 94 Merrivale Road, Smethwick, West Midlands	
	Lot 104 22 Malcolm Court, Lower Vauxhall Street, Wolverhampton	
	Lot 105 44 Gracemere Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham	
	Lot 106 27 Larches Lane, Wolverhampton	
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- Detached

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  Bathroom

  Gardens

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- d Rise

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  Four Bedroom Semi-Detached

  Lounge●Kitchen/Diner

  Family Bathroom●Gardens

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£159,950



- mpton Road

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  Three Bed End Terrace

  Two Reception Rooms

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  En-Suite®Gardens & Off Road Parking

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  Conservatory
  Family Bathroom
  En-Suite Shower Room

- Off Road Parking
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- Enclosed Rear Garden

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- Willemma.
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  Three Bedroom Detached

   Lounge Parnily Bathroom

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  Family Bathroom with Shower
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- Bloxwich
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- Semi
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   Family Bathroom
- Extensive Rear Garden

th Clos

■ Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
■ Lounge●Dining Room●Kitchen
■ Verandah/Utility●Family Bathroom
■ Double Glazing & Gas Central Heat
■ Front & Rear Gardens●Rear Acces

 No Upward Chain Offers in excess of £110,000



Offers in excess of £120,000

- Bloxwich
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  Two Reception Rooms

  Kitchen

  Family Bathroom

  Family Bathroom

  Gas Heating & Double Glazing (Where

In the Region of £109,950



- cnes Hoad o Bedroom Semi-Detached furbed●ounge●Kitchen/Dining Roon nservatory●Family Bathroom uble Glazing & Gas Central Heating 「Road Parking with Access to Rear



rs Close



Lodge Street

Extended Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace

Lounge

Re-Fitted Breakfast Kitchen

Dining Room

Extended Ground Floor Bathroom



Extended Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
 Lounge Large Dining Room
 Extended kitchen Family Bathroom
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Walsall
Queen Eliabeth Avenue

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Bloxwich
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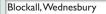
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OAK ROAD, WILLENHALL ell Presented Three Bed Traditiona emi Having Entrance Hallway, sunge, Fitted Kitchen Diner/Sitting som, Family Bathroom, Part suble Glazing, Central Heating, arage And Off Road Parking.

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## Motoring

# Mercedes AMG much more than a hot hatch on steroids



The Mercedes Benz A 45 AMG races to 62 mph in a stunning 4.6 seconds

TRADITIONAL AMG models have

been big, brash and brutish in their

However, in the case of the A 45 AMG model, Mercedes has created a very hot hatch, thanks in the main to the class-busting 360 horsepower produced by its 2.0-litre, four-cylinder turbo

In reality it's much more than a just not hatch on steroids.

As is the case with every AMG car, you buy into the culture of the hand-built engine plus the numerous bespoke set-up and tuning modes over and above any conventional Sport-badged Mer-

And being a thoroughly modern AMG car, the

performance delivery.

before kicking in, with a third 'Off' mode promoted as a trackday setting.

Rounding off the powertrain tour is a version of Mercedes' existing double clutch gearbox. This seven-speed DSG-style gearbox can be left in auto or switched to a more responsive Sport mode, while chunky paddleshifters behind the steering wheel give the driver complete control in manual ngme. In reality it's much more than a just hot hatch

### Cabin

Figure-hugging sports seats greet driver and passenger when you open the door, and from the sports-themed trim in the cabin it's clear that Mercedes isn't shy in promoting the A 45's performance potential. Racy, red-coloured trim and lots of faux carbon fibre are the obvious give-And being a thoroughly modern AMG car, the 45 boasts an intelligent all-wheel drive system that directs power to where you need it most. A helpful addition when car can sprint from rest to 62mph in a blistering 4.6 seconds.

With all the engine's power, comes control. Alongside the car's intelligent all-wheel drive system is a three-stage ESP set-up.

Aside from the default 'On' mode, there's a second setting giving the driver some leeway

aways. Still, Mercedes hopes the real thrill will be from driving. The A 45's deep exhaust note certainly suggests a good time will be had by all, yet the car suggests a good mile white a laddy an, yet the tai is surprisingly civilised if you leave everything in its default setting. For many this will help make it an easy-to-live with all-rounder, which is not something you can say for some of the more

Mercedes comfort and luxury you would expect extreme, rock-hard riding, traditional hot-hatch buzz boxes. Granted, even in 'comfort' mode, you do know the A 45 is a bit special.

It's also quick, and boasts a refreshingly com-pliant ride in the context of a firmly suspended pliant ride in the context of a firmly suspended compact hatch. That is largely down to the value-added AMG element, which also makes its presence felt through the car's weighty and direct steering. Still, leaving the A 45 in its default settings will mean you'll fail to reap the benefit of its GTI-plus price tag.

Switch to the gearbox's Sport mode and gearchanges are noticeably quicker, plus you're accompanied by four-cylinder versions of AMG's trademark barking, backfiring and bellowing exhaust note.

exhaust note

The sports exhaust experience is a must, and the aural rewards are impressive considering you're in a car with half the normal AMG-tuned you're in a car with man the format Australiae cylinder count. Despite the presence of an all-wheel drive system, in reality the A 45 bias remains largely front-driven. This, combined with the presence of a four-pot motor, is a first for AMG, yet the firm has done a good job of making the A-Class feel special.

.IFETIME





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# Decline complete as the motor city goes bankrupt



Spirit of America – the Ford Mustang is a true icon of Detroit and the US car industry and made famous in the great chase scene from the film Bullitt

THE news that the US city of of the business. Back in the heyday, Detroit has filed for Chapter 9 American car manufacturers were in Detroit has filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy will come as a

bankruptcy will come as a massive shock to many.

It seems hard to believe that a metropolis of this size – the largest city in the state of Michigan and once the 10th largest city in the country – can undergo such financial catastrophe.

But it is the decline of the native automotive industry over the last 40 years that has brought Detroit to its financial knees.

What was once a bright and prosperous hub is now a shell, and although the big car makers ford and General Motors (GM) and still have a presence there, it's no longer the heart

presence there, it's no longer the heart

the ascendancy and Detroit was at the centre of it. Ford started its operations in Detroit while GM began in nearby Flint, before moving its headquarters to Detroit in the 1920s.

to Detroit in the 1920s.

In the post-war period American cars began to evolve rapidly with new technology and a strong, distinctive style, and resulted in desirable machines within reach of the common

man.
Throughout the late 1950s over 90 per cent of all car sales came from the home brands.

This meant prosperity for the man on the street too. Including the support industries, one sixth of

America's workforce were employed by the car industry.

In the 1950s and early 1960s, you could walk out of one job on the pro-duction line in the morning and walk into a new one by the afternoon.

### **Domination**

Domination

It could never last, though. Imports began to erode the American domination in the 1960s and federal regulation of the car industry introduced many safety systems that blunted performance and added cost.

By the early 1970s economy became a huge issue thanks to the fuel crisis, and the more reliable and frugal imported cars started to make the bigengined American cars look dated.

In Detroit itself the effect of this decline was reflected in the 'white

flight. Following decades of racial tension, white families began to flock to the suburbs and by the late 1970s the racial mix of the city had been turned

on its head on its head.

As a result, property prices began to tumble, jobs became increasingly scarce and by 2010 its population was just 700,000 compared to the 1.8 million in 1950.

Although there are small sparks of promise, the major financial headache has yet to be overcome.

Whatever the solution for this might be, the booming car industry is long gone.

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# Education is the key to safety on our country roads

DESPITE the explosion in urban trafficcalming measures, rural roads continue to present all too present dangers.

Unlike in cities, where considerable sums have been spent on speed humps, chicanes and other such devices, things are different out in the sticks. There, the measures are often no more advanced than a motion-sensing sign flashing up the speed limit or warning you of a bend in the road. in the road

in the road.

In reality this is little more than a sticking plaster for a much larger issue: namely that few people appear to know how to drive responsibly on rural roads.

It's with worrying regularity that local news outlets report on single vehicle accidents on country roads. The upturned ear in a ditch and car-versus-tree scenario are sadly all too common. Worse still, the two-car collision resulting from a botched overtaking manoeuvre. Again, this illustrates it's not necessarily speed that kills, but a simple lack of skill.

So what's the bir new idea from those in power to

simple lack of skill.

So what's the big new idea from those in power to reduce these accidents? It's been decided that more speed cameras and even lower rural speed limits will be the new master plan – basically, more of the same. Worse still, those in Whitehall have also given local authorities increased responsibility for devising their own policies.

Flashing

clist will still be there long after the last speed camera has been installed.

Of course, the better long-term solution would be to invest more in driver training and education. Raising standards would go a long way to eliminating many of our current problems, but as long as drivers believe they are entitled to a licence – as opposed to it being something you earn – little will change.

Yes, the programme would cost money, but the human cost would reduce as more drivers kept it on the tarmac.

The current policy of slawing everyone down to the

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Flashing

If left unchecked by experts who actually know what works and what doesn't, there's every chance that we'll see mile after mile of otherwise safe roads neutered by 30 and 40mph limits, average speed cameras planted like trees in a sustainable forest and retina-burning flashing signs on every bend.

And don't forget that this thinly-veiled safety programme – the real motive is to slow traffic to a crawl-will cost considerable sums of money.

But it will happen, and it will be at the expense of arresting the real issues; improving crumbling state of the road network, clearing trees from obscuring road signs and improving sight lines at junctions and bends. That mid-corner pothole destined to unseat a motorcyclist will still be there long after the last speed camera has been installed.

The current policy of slowing everyone down to the level of the least skilled only leads to resentment from those who take driving seriously. It also opens the door to wandering minds as we trundle along in a speed limit-induced coma.

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Local Information

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Oneservation Area Consent for demolition of boundary wall, rebuilding of oneservation Area Consent for demolition of boundary wall, rebuilding of ooundary wall and gates AT: 79 HIGHGATE ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3JA

Installation of external security doors to recessed front entrance ODUS VIVENDI, 85 BRIDGE STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1JQ

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(Walsall)

### SPORT

### Team will stick with task, says Kitching

THIS Saturday Rushall Olympic kick off their third season of Evo-Stik Premier Division League football and hopes are high at Dales Lane that the club can improve on their previous two cam-

their previous two campaigns.

Manager Neil Kitching has made some impressive signings and the club is quietly confident of enjoying another good season.

Newly-promoted Skelmersdale United open proceedings at Dales Lane, at 3pm.

3pm. Following last weekend's draw with Worcester City, left fullback Matty Wood became the latest player to

sign for the club.

He penned a 12-month contract after Kitching had

made him his top target.

The club is still talking to the former Blues striker Dele Adebola about joining

Dele Adebola about joining the club.
Midlands-based Wood, aged 24, made more than 150 appearances in fellow Evo-Stik Premier Division side, Witton Albion's colours since arriving at Wincham Deak's the name of 2010.

Park in the summer of 2010. He has been selected in the Evo-Stik Premier Divi-sion 'Team of the Year' in the

sion 'Team of the Year in the last two seasons as a pacey, attacking left-back. He was a key player in Albion's play-offs success that led to the club return-ing to the Northern Premier League's top flight.

### Reedswood winners at the double

FC Reedswood ladies squad enjoyed a double delight after travelling north for two fixtures against league sides.

FCR were in Lancashire to play back-to-back games, first against Queen's Park Rangers Under-19s and then Blackpool.

The squad was struggling for numbers due to holidays and some players had to play out of position, but the squad responded well and came out 3-1 winners against QPR and 2-1 winners against QPR and 2-1 winners against Backpool.

Both fixtures were a real test for Reedswood, especially following a couple of serious injuries during the day.

It is just under four weeks

day.
It is just under four weeks before Reedswood start their season proper against Wednesfield Ladies.

Wednesfield Ladies.

The ladies squad has also announced that, for the third season in a row, clothes retailer theds will be sponsoring the club as the official Home Ground Sponsor.

To learn more about FCReedswood visit

www.fcreedswood.co.uk or follow them on twitter @fcreedswood.

### Return win for Lea Hall

AFTER beating Lea Hall last week at home Stafford Road bowling squad went away for the return match. With a changed and strengthened team, Lea Hall knew they couldn't afford to

knew they couldn't afford to lose. The game was played in high spirit. Unfortunately for Stafford Road they only had one winner Pat Broadhurst (21-16). Brian Smith bowled exceptionally well (16-22) and just missed out on a win The more experienced Hall clear at the top by two points. With seven games left it's going to be a close finish to the season.

# Pics stay strong in pre-season clashes

Rushall Olympic 1
Kidderminster Harriers 1
RUSHALL Olympic continued
their bright start to pre-season
when they played out a hard
fought draw against Skrill Premier
League Kidderminster Harriers.
The Disc immeaded most

The Pics impressed most observers with their football and certainly deserved at least a draw from this entertaining encounter.

The home side included 38-yearold Dele Adeboal in their starting

The Pics took the lead through a goal from midfielder Carl Palmer. Palmer picked up the ball, went

past two challenges, and struck a fine right foot shot into the bottom corner of the net giving Nathan Vaughan no chance at all. However, it was not too long before the visitors were on level

A deep cross from the right from Marvin Johnson was headed back into the area by Joe Lolley and Nathan Blissett sidefooted the ball

home.

The Pics made several changes at the break and Josh Craddock almost put them ahead, within minutes of the restart but saw his volley flash inches over.

Chasetown 0 Rushall Olympic 1

A late-headed goal from Zak Martin gave Rushall Olympic a narrow victory against their neighbours Chasetown.

The victory also continued Pics impressive winning run against their local rivals.

The home side, however, put up a good show against their higher ranked neighbours and shaded the first half with Paul Sullivan and Andy Westwood showing up well.

Sullivan, in particular, was

score-sheet as he was denied on at least three occasions by goalkeeper Lewis Solly.

In the second half Rushall began to enjoy more of the play and possession and almost went ahead from an unlikely source when Jimmy Turner struck a fierce left foot shot inches wide.

toot shot inches wide.

Chasetown should have gone in front when they caught their opponents on the break but Sullivan saw his left foot shot fly inches past the far post but Rushall replied with a shot from Martin that not only beat the keeper but the far

post as well. The Pics leading goalscorer of last season Dave Walker went close again but was denied again by Watson and then new contract signing Stan Mugisha lobbed inches over the har

The only goal of the game came with just a few minutes remaining with just a few minutes remaining when Jonny Haynes' corner was powerfully headed home by Zac Martin to give Rushall another victory over their neighbours.

The season kicks off this Saturday with the Pics entertaining newly promoted Skelmersdale United, kick off 3.00pm.

### **Battling** Lockmen unpicked by Flyers

Willenhall 1 Lye Town 3 THE Lockmen went down in a battling defeat against title

Steve Weaver and his mishit shot rolled into the corner of the net.

hit shot rolled into the corner of the net.
Five minutes before half-time Whitcombe atoned for the penalty when a left wing cross found him in the box, again the effort was mis-hit, but it went in via a post.
Lye were awarded a dubious penalty on the hour. Lye skipper Robin Sheffield put his effort in the corner but Steve Booth got down and across to push it away. Booth then denied Weaver before Willenhall got back in the game as Jake Morgan guided home Jamel Fuller's cross after fine work from sub Simon Laidley.
The visitors settled any nerves when Weaver was left unmarkd two minutes later to guide in a superb volley.

### Dragons put the bite on Bulldogs

Birmingham Bulldogs 20 Coventry Dragons 28 BIRMINGHAM Bulldogs Rugby League FC's winning run was halted by Coventry Dragons.

to the posts, stand off Cameron Tune's goal making it 12-4 to Dragons.

Brum responded as left centre Dan Ventrella scored. The opening minutes of the second half saw Dragons

Pics.

Luke Bottomer, 20, is no stranger to Pics' supporters as he returns to the club as a firm favourite with his midfield industry and trickery.

Historians also includes

His previous clubs include Coventry City, Tamworth, Hednesford Town and Stafford Rangers

# Keane to get back in the ring for 'exorcism'

WALSALL'S Christopher Keane and Tipton's Lee Glover will return to the ring on the West Midlands' next pro boxing bill at Walsall Town Hall on September 7.

Keane will look to exorcise the demons of his shocking two-round defeat to Neil Dawson at the same venue in May, with a four-round run out on the card.

That halted the Midlands cruiserweight champion's progress, as Dawson retained the WBO International title

and silenced the home-town

and silenced the home-town supporters.

The end was nigh after Keane took a devastating counter punch, a hammer of a left hook that nearly put him completely out of the ring through the ropes. Referee Richie Davies stepped in and allowed Keane the opportunity to answer the count but his feet wouldn't, plant, forcing the

wouldn't plant, forcing the man in the middle to stop

man in the middle to stop the fight. It's the first blot on the 27-year-old's 11-fight pro record and was perhaps the biggest setback the 2009 ABA super-heavyweight ABA super-heavyweight national amateur champion

### Challenger

It came against a British title challenger just weeks before but, with a dearth of fighters at the weight, Keane could still receive a shot at English champion Matthew Askin.

Keane said: "Everyone has to lose one day and that was my time.

has to lose one day and that was my time.

"It's the way you come back from it that makes you stronger. I have never been dropped before, that was the first time ever.

"It was a shock when my legs went like that, like Bambi! If our paths cross again, I will fight him tomorrow if he wants but he's not going to want to fight me going to want to fight me just now.

"He's going on to bigger and better things like the

### by Craig Birch

British title. Hopefully, if he wins that, I will meet him down the line."

Glover hasn't boxed since

a damaging second round stoppage loss of his own in the featherweight Prize-fighter of October 2011 to

fighter of October 2011 to Choi Tseveenpurev. Numerous comeback fights have been arranged for 'The Tipton Slasher' without materialising, the last in October one of five dates to have fallen through.

But the 26-year-old has decided now is the time to take boxing seriously again and will know what to expect from his opponent on fight night, Pavels Senkovs.

Mansfield-based Latvian

Senkovs was in the other corner for Glover's fourth pro fight in November 2010, going the distance with the Black Country boxer. Tickets are £55 and include a sumptuous three-

VIP ringside tables for 10 people are available at £100 per person to include the meal and complimentary bottles of wine.

bottles of wine.

British lightweight champion Martin Gethin, and former British welterweight title holder Young Mutley will mingle with guests in the VIP section.

To purchase, call either 07780 505 743 or 07581 131 745.

### Saddlers nowhere near our best yet, says boss



Saddlers players celebrate the hard-earned three points at Boundary Park after their victory over Oldham

DEAN SMITH insists high-flying Walsall are still nowhere near hitting their potential.

hitting their potential.

James Baxendale's winner at Oldham means the Saddlers have made a perfect start to the season, winning both League One fixtures and setting up a date with Premier League Stoke in the Capital One Cup after beating Port Vale in round one.

It is the first time they have won their opening three fixtures of a season since the League Two promotion winning campaign of 2006-2007.

They could even make history when they face Notts County on Saturday, by becoming the first Saddlers side to win their opening four fixtures since 1920, when the club played in the Birmingham League.

But while the mood around the Banks's is positive, the manager believes they can still make big improvements after admitting to being disappointed with the overall display in Saturday's 1-0 win at Oldham. "We are nowhere near our best," said Smith. "That comes with

games. We have had three tough ches and we were not as good could be at Oldham.

matches and we were not as good as we could be at Oldham.

"Whether we had a little bit of the Port Vale pitch in our legs I don't know. We've got to be better than that with the ball because you can't keep expecting the back four to bail you out. When they were called upon, they dealt with everything Oldham threw at them."

One aspect which has pleased the manager is the effort his players have shown in the two tough away games.

# **Future looks uncertain**



Darlaston FC faces troubled times

A LONG-RUNNING football club in Walsall has been pulled from the league after almost 140 years in existence.

Darlaston Town FC is believed to be the second oldest football club in the country

Fans have now launched a rescue bid Fans have now launched a rescue bid and say they are aiming to relaunch the club, which was based at the City Ground in Waverley Road, within the next 12 months.

They said the club's history was 'too illustrious to let it disappear without a fight'

Darlaston Town FC was formed in 1874 and was a founder member of the Midlands league in 1962.

The team has played at the Waverley Road ground since 1899 and only during the war years has a Darlaston team not

Fears over the future of the club were raised last year after it needed to raise £15,000 to run for the next season and

pay off bills.
Chief executive of the West Midlands
Regional League Neil Juggins confirmed
the club was no longer part of the league.

### Competition

Competition

"They have folded as far as we are concerned," he said. "They are no longer members of our competition."

A meeting for fans to discuss whether to reform the club or set up a new one is being held at Darlaston All Active Centre, Willenhall Road, on September 4 from 7.30pm. Neil Chambers, a chairman of the club in the 1990s and club historian, said: "There is a real enthusi-

sent the town and if possible keep the name of Darlaston Town alive.
"People have said to me they remem-

"People have said to me they remember great times in the town and the history of the club is simply too illustrious to let the club and name disappear. "It might be that we have to start again from scratch and build a new club and team but if that's what we have to do then I am convinced there is enough support from the people and businesses in the town to give it a try."

Mr Chambers said people he had spoken to simply wanted a community-based senior football team to bear the town's name. "They all know that the new club will have to start afresh and at the moment that will mean finding a the moment that will mean finding a home ground and raising funds.

favourites Lye Town. Willenhall dominated the Willenhall dominated the opening 20 minutes culminating in Aaron Hatfield rattling the underside of the bar from a free-kick.

The Flyers first serious attempt on goal saw them awarded a penalty, ex-Reds favourite Damian Whitcombe hammering against the bar from the spot.

However, it was short-lived respite as the dangerous Kieron Bennett set up Steve Weaver and his mis-

run was halted by Coventry Dragons.

Dragons were first to score, winger Carl Liddington outflanking the Birmingham line before cutting inside for a try that scrum half Mark Hyslop goaled.

Brum responded with some excellent handling from Shepherd, Edgar and Farnham that ended with right centre Adam Walker touching down in the corner. Dragons second row Dave Whiting to drive over close to the posts, stand off

the second half saw Dragons pull further away with tries from centre James Horrocks and Hyslop.
Birmingham dug deep and first Edgar went over, then skipper Matt Dudley forced his way over. Edgar cut the gap to eight points.

### Rushall take on signings

RUSHALL Olympic have two new signings to add to their rosta. Stan Mugisha and Luke Bottomer have both put par to paper for the club. Stan Mugisha is a 22-year-old lightning-quick forward

Stan Mugisha is a 22-year-old lightning-quick forward with real potential.

Born in Rwanda, Stan has represented England at schoolboy level and counts Slough Town, AFC Hayes and Bilston Town amongst his former clubs and he has signed a 12-month contract with a further option for the Pics.

**Rescue bid** 

Fans look to save ailing football club

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Team talk The best is yet to come, says boss



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## Rushall move to top of the division

### Staffs Club Div 2 Lichfield 197-9

Rushall 198-9 Rushall win RUSHALL moved to the top of Division 2 with a thrilling one wicket victory over Lich-field, with just three balls to

spare.
Rushall won the toss and invited Lichfield to bat. Peter West (29) made a decent start for Lichfield,

decent start for Lichfield, but fell as one of Alan Dunn's (4-47) early victims. The mid-order trio of Tom West (37), Oliver Wem (35) and Tom Wall (31) gave some impetus to Lichfield. But Alan Dunn and the evergreen Ian Clayton (3-50) wrapped up the Lichfield innings, finishing on 197-9. The Rushall reply stut-

The Rushall reply stut-tered to 25-3, before Ian Edwards (21) and Andy Clayton (25), put them straight.

straight.

But a little mid-order collapse put the game in the balance, this led the young Jack Clayton to show a mature head, and with the excellent stroke play of Dave Perry (35), jack (25no) led Rushall to victory.

Rushall 2XI 146 Four Oaks 120

Rushall to Rushall with Rushall

Rushall 2XI 146 Four Oaks 120 Rushall win Rushall recorded an excel-lent victory over promotion chasing Four Oaks It was left to Warren Foster (32) and Mark Everall (29) to provide the back bone of the Rushall innings, as they were bowled out for 146.

### **Saddlers face** The Potters

DEAN SMITH'S Walsall have been handed a tough Capital One Cup second-round tie at Stoke City.

After seeing off Port Vale, the Saddlers can now bag a Potteries double when they travel to the Britannia later this month.

Albion were given a home

travet to the Britannia later this month.

Albion were given a home tie with Newport County who saw off Championship side Brighton last week. Villa, meanwhile, will be happy with a home clash against Rotherham while Blues face a trip to Yeovil.

Full second round draw. Carlisle v Leicester, Doncaster v Leeds, Notting-ham Forest v Milwall, Sundefand v MK Dons, ALBION v Newport, Bristol City Crystal Palace, Peterbrorugh v Reading, Barnsley v Southampton.

Forest Wallsace, Peterbrorugh v Leyton Orient v Hull, Everton v Stevenge, Stoke v Wall-SALL, Huldefsfield v Charlton, VILLA v Rotherham, Tramerev Bölton, Morceambe v Newcasile, QPR v Swindon, Derby v Brentford, BULES Accringtion v Cardiff, West Ham v Cheltenham.

Ties to be played the week com-

Ties to be played the week com-mencing August 26.





# Fine-form Faultless can't be blamed for loss

Coventry Sphinx 1 Walsall Wood 0 ANOTHER disappointing performance by shot-shy Wood. Keeper Dale Faultless pulled off a string of fine saves but could do nothing about the only goal of the game scored in the 16th minute by Matthew Bannister.

The first incisive move of note came from Wood when Craig Hancox and Andre Gonza-

Wood when Crag Hancox and Andre Gonza-les tried to work a tight one-two on the right of the box but keeper Carl O'Neil was quickly off his line to collect the final pass. Sphinx calmed it down a little and put the Wood defence under pressure, but it was another misplaced pass out of defence that lead to the only goal of the game. Ashley

### Walsall Wood

Wilks gratefully accepting the pass running at the centre of the Wood defence and firing in a low drive that Faultless saved at full stretch low to his right, Kyle Rhodes was first to the loose ball and he calmly played the ball back into the path of Bannister to fire into the roof of the net.

### Walsall Wood 2 AFC Wulfrunians 2

AN equaliser deep into injury time robbed Wood of their first victory in the Midland Alliance. It was all Wood in the first few minutes with the visitors defence looking

decidedly shaky. Wood took the lead on 39 minutes with Shawn Boothe carrying the ball out of defence to halfway before hitting a lovely diagonal ball that Hayles raced on to wide left.

wide left.

He made it to the byline and whipped in a vicious low cross and David Asbury, under intense pressure from Wood striker Dave Carns, kneed the ball into his own net.

In the second half Wulfs drew level when a long ball over the top was brought down by Gregg and he nonchalantly lobbed the ball over the advancing keeper.

Wood went back in front on 65 minutes with a classic goal, Hayles lost the ball on the

left to Webb but won it back before releasing Taylor Boyce down the line. His lovely, farpost cross was met by Bilgimer, timing his run to perfection, and the diminutive striker scored with a superb header.

On 84 minutes Wulfs pressured the Wood back line into a hurried clearance that fell to Tom Piggott, whose shot was cleared off the line. When a left wing free kick by Harry Harris bounced off the face of the bar it looked as if Wood had done enough to win. Well into injury time great play by Webb saw him make space for a cross and Gregg lost his marker and tucked away the equaliser.

## Honours even in warm-up

### Rushall Olympic 1 Worcester City 1

Worcester City 1
IN their final pre-season game, before the new Evostik League Premier Division campaign begins, Rushall Olympic entertained Skrill North outfit Worcester City.

City were unbeaten in their pre-season campaign

City were unbeaten in their pre-season campaign. For the second time the Pics named Dele Adebola in their starting line-up. He was brought down in the penalty area, by City keeper Deale Chamberlain and Liam Spink confidently converted the spot-kick. Within seven minutes the visitors were back on level terms when the unfortunate Jimmy Turner turned the

Jimmy Turner turned the ball past his own keeper.

The homeside created a good chance thanks to some fine play down the left from Zak Martin, whose inchperfect shot was headed over by Kyle Haynes. They went close again when Dave Walker's glancing header, from Kyle Haynes' cross, just went past the far post.

There was further good news for manager Neil Kitching after the game when Craig Bannister, Martin and Spink signed to commit themselves for the forthcoming season. The homeside created a

### **Good start but** momentum lost

Studley 3 Pelsall Villa 1 PELSALL Villa took the lead against Studley on 20 minutes through Sean West-ley but then conceded three. "We started well," said

we started well, said manager Craig Timmins.
"Then there was a foul on Ben Lund and as he lay injured on the floor, our hosts broke the offside trap and equalised. It was a crucial goal for them and took away some of our memoratur." some of our momentum

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# DOUBLE DELIGHT AS JAMES HITS WIN

JUST at this moment, everything seems to be falling right for Walsall. When Craig Westcarr fluffed his control of James Chambers' cross, the ball might have gone anywhere.

Instead, it fell perfectly for James Baxendale following in behind, who hit a first-time shot past

Instead, it fell periecus, lowing in behind, who h keeper Mark Oxley and into the corner of the net at Boundary Park.

It was the winger's second goal in as many games and proved the decisive moment of a hard-fought encounter, in which the hosts will feel they had most of the play and perhaps even a penalty.

Minutes before Baxendale's goal, Latics midfielder Cristian Montano saw his shot at goal deflect off what looked like a hand.

Referee Gary Sutton waved away claims for a spot-kick and, just like at Port Vale on Tuesday, there was the sense the Saddlers got the best of the big decisions.

### **Fortune**

Some might call it luck yet whatever fortune has fallen Walsall's way in the past two games, there can be no denying it has been earned.

The visitors' passing machine never quite clicked into gear and the one moment it did, they scored. But for the rest of the game, Dean Smith's side worked their socks off to ensure they would emerge the victors.

the victors.

Oldham's pressure in the second half was steady, yet never relentless and Saddlers keeper Richard O'Donnell was not overly troubled by any efforts on goal. That



was down in large part to the superb efforts of skipper Butler and central defensive partner Paul Downing who won header after header, while full-backs James Chambers and left-back Mal Benning were always first to any second balls.

any second balls.

Pointless Notts County are the visitors to the Banks's next Saturday, where the hosts will have the chance to make it three wins from three.

It's for too early to get

wins from three.

It's far too early to get carried away but Smith could surely not have hoped for his side to start the season any better.

Baxendale's goal was one of the few highlights of a first half which bubbled along at a nice nexe desnite.

along at a nice pace despite the lack of goalmouth action.

The goal came from their best move of the game, beginning with a neat exchange between the Chambers twins, with Adam sulling a positive that whe had a few and the control of the control rolling a pass into the path of James on the right-hand side of the box.

His low cross was behind the defenders and was mis-controlled by Westcarr, before bobbling on for the waiting Baxendale to smash home at the first attempt.



Pre-match huddle as Walsall prepare to take on Oldham



Adam Chambers battles in the Saddlers midfield





Romaine Sawyers gives Dean Smith another option

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